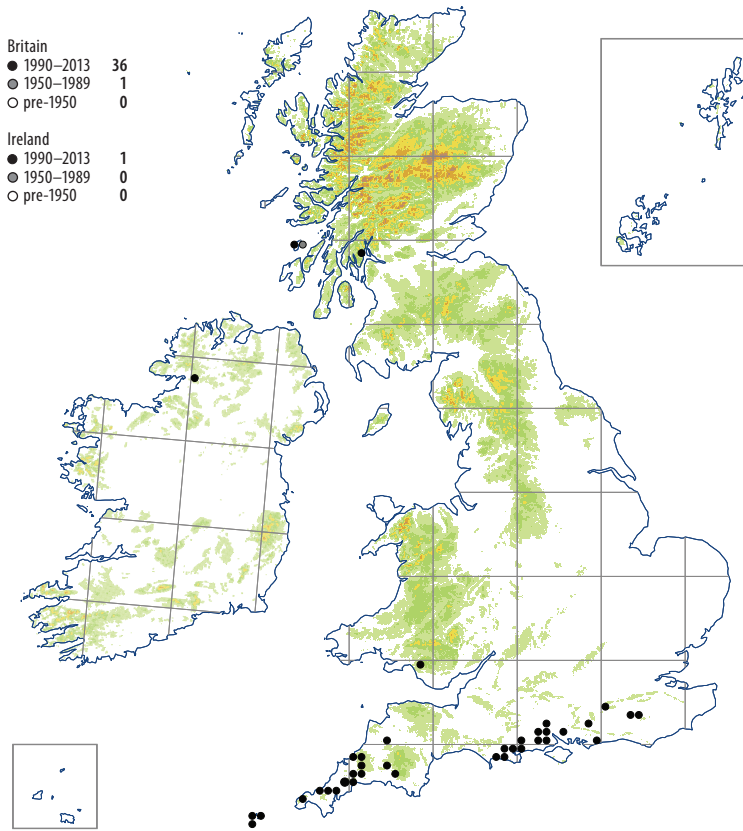


Lophocolea bispinosa



Locally abundant on base-poor, trampled, peaty, loamy or sandy tracks, including tracks on china clay and colliery spoil tips and across heathland. Also occasionally on soil or humus overlying rocks, or on tree trunks. Associates include *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Scapania irrigua*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*. Altitudinal range: 10–330 m.

First found in Britain in 1962, *Lophocolea bispinosa* was known only from the Isles of Scilly and Colonsay at the time of the 1991–1994 Atlas. It is thought to have been introduced independently to the first two localities. It has subsequently colonised relatively large areas of china clay spoil in Cornwall and sandy heathland in Dorset and Hampshire, but remains rare elsewhere. Spread is likely to have been on vehicle

tyres, including those of quarry trucks, military vehicles and scramble bikes.

Dioicous; often fertile, sporophytes are occasional on the Isles of Scilly, March to May and August (Paton, 1999). All plants in mainland Cornwall are female (Holyoak, 2012), as are those further east in southern England and S Wales; the Colonsay colony is male. The plants are fragile and are assumed to spread vegetatively by caducous branches.

Suboceanic Temperate. Introduced to the Northern Hemisphere from Australasia, where it is found in Australia, the Antipodes Islands and Macquarie Island; also recorded from Spain.

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