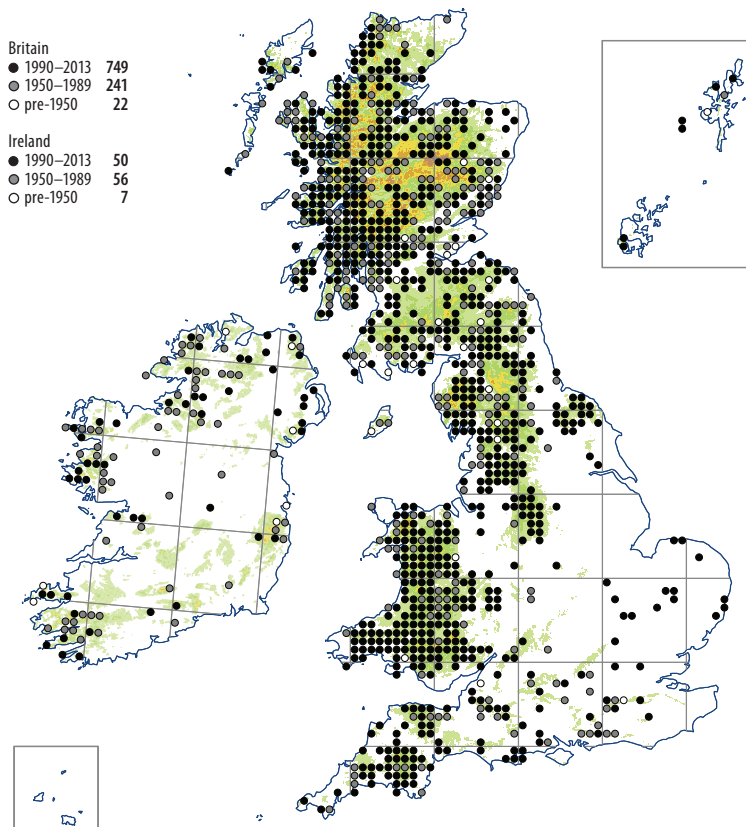


Nowellia curvifolia



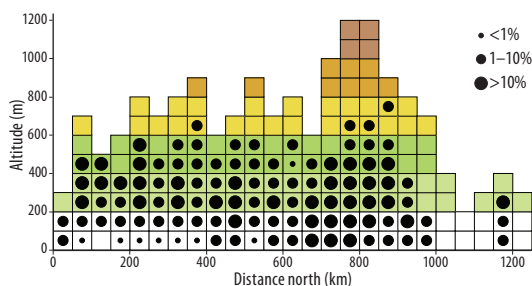
A species occurring widely on rotting timber, most commonly in deciduous woodland but also quite regularly in conifer plantations. Stumps and the decorticated trunks and branches of a range of broadleaved trees and conifers are colonised. It often forms extensive, strikingly red patches, sometimes in a mixture with other hepatics, including various *Cephalozia* spp., *Lophocolea heterophylla* and *Odontoschisma denudatum*. It also occurs on peaty soil, frequently in moorland, heathland and dry peat bogs, chiefly in the high rainfall areas of the north and west. Very rarely, it is rupestral. Altitudinal range: 0–540 m.

There is good evidence that *Nowellia* increased significantly in the 20th century, and it continues to expand in the south of England and Wales, where it was virtually unknown before 1950. A number of sites that were visited by highly

competent bryologists in the early 20th century held no *Nowellia* then, but have large colonies now. In recent decades it has increased in Belgium and adjoining territories, particularly in spruce plantations in the Ardennes, and in the Netherlands (BLWG, 2013).

Diocious or autoicous, occasionally parocious. Sporophytes are frequent and widespread, March to August; gemmiferous shoots are produced on wood and peat, and may be frequent but are not recorded consistently.

European Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe but infrequent in the extreme north and the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia; Turkey; Russia, China and Japan southwards to Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Sri Lanka; Queensland; N America; Mexico; Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil.



T.H. Blackstock, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet