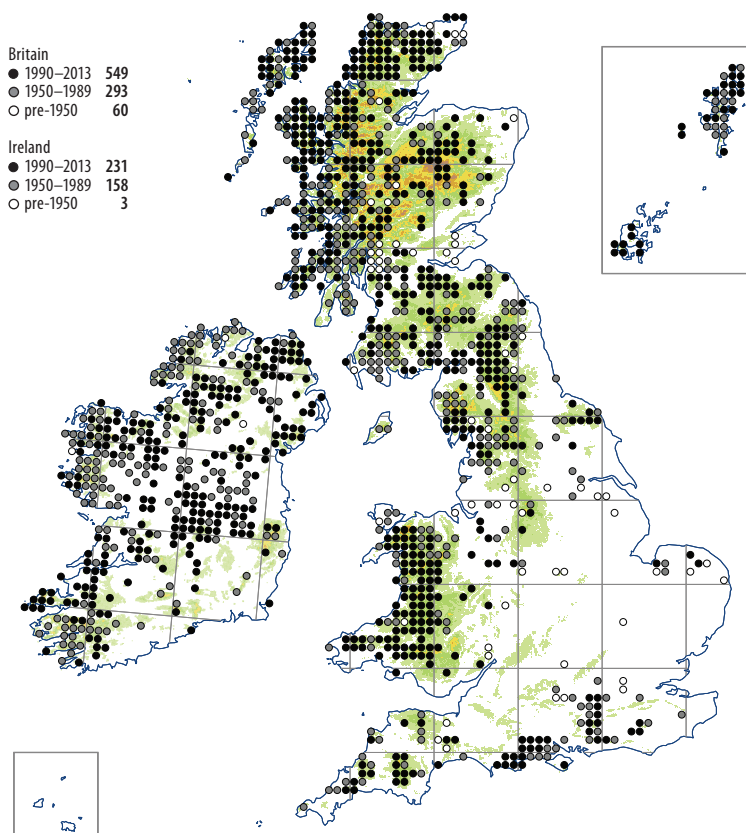


# Odontoschisma sphagni



A characteristic species of ombrogenous mires and valley bogs, and also widespread in moorland and damp heathland. It most frequently grows amongst *Sphagnum* spp., of which *S. papillosum* is a particularly common associate, but can form patches on wet peat, the base of *Molinia*, *Eriophorum* and *Trichophorum* tussocks and decaying vegetation. In saturated peatlands *Odontoschisma sphagni* is sometimes locally prominent amongst other bog hepatics, including *Cephalozia* spp., *Kurzia pauciflora* and *Mylia anomala*. It has also been recorded from *Leucobryum glaucum* hummocks in rather dry acid grassland (Holyoak, 2012). It is favoured by the periodic burning of wet heath, and decreases in frequency as *Calluna vulgaris* matures (Burch, 2008). Altitudinal range: 0–880 m.

The retraction at the fringes of its range is the result of a long period of habitat destruction. In its core area, Chapman & Rose (1991) documented its reduction in frequency at Coom Rigg Moss NNR, Northumberland, between 1958 and 1986 following the afforestation of the surrounding land and a subsequent reduction in grazing. It is very intolerant of mechanised peat-cutting, although it will recover with time (Cooper *et al.*, 2001). It has doubtless suffered from pollution near conurbations during the industrial era (as in the South Pennines), and records show a downward trend at low altitudes since the 1960s, but the species is too common for any reduction in frequency to be apparent on the map.

Dioicous; sporophytes are rare, April to September; gemmae are unknown. Like several other bog liverworts, it can regenerate from buried underground axes on disturbed peat bogs (Duckett & Clymo, 1988).

Suboceanic Temperate. Throughout much of Europe eastwards to Finland and Bulgaria, including Iceland and the Faeroes, the Azores and Madeira. North-eastern N America.

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