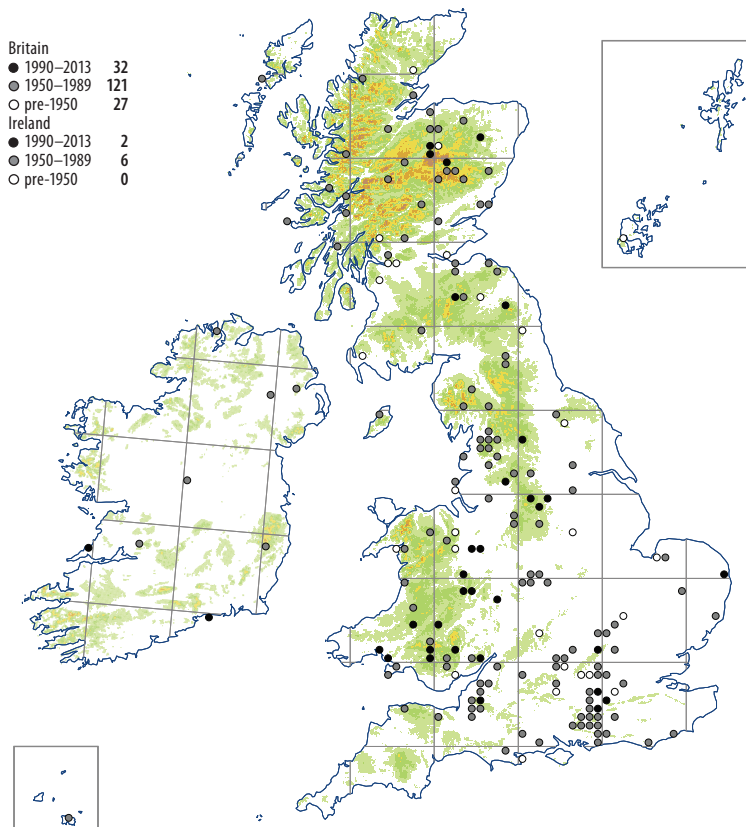


Cephaloziella rubella



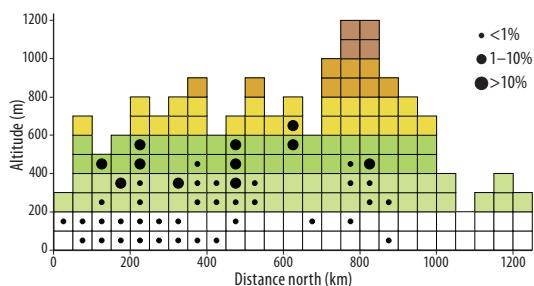
Most often found on well drained or periodically damp sand and gravel, and rare in the *Sphagnum* mires favoured by the superficially similar *Cephaloziella hampeana*. Typical habitats include quarry floors, metal mine spoil and tracks, as well as exposed peat on bogs and heaths, and decaying logs and peaty banks in woodland. It is probably the most frequent *Cephaloziella* on decorticated logs and stumps. Altitudinal range: 0–480 m.

There are remarkably few records of *C. rubella* from the last 20 years compared with those from the 1960s and 1970s. This may represent a genuine decline, but is more likely to reflect a general fear of the genus among modern bryologists. That said, it may have been over-recorded in the past and is actually a rather scarce species. Evidence from Cornwall, a very well-recorded hot-spot for the genus and from where all

records of *C. rubella* have proven to be erroneous (Holyoak, 2012), lends some support to the latter possibility.

Paroicous or occasionally autoicous; sporophytes are frequent, summer. Gemmae are frequent.

Many non-fertile *Cephaloziella* could be *C. rubella*, although they could equally be *C. hampeana*, *C. divaricata* or *C. stellulifera*. Even fertile plants pose problems because the differences between *C. rubella* and *C. stellulifera* are not always clear-cut and some records of the former may be errors for the latter. Furthermore, some specimens that appear to be *C. rubella* are autoicous (Paton, 1999). DNA Barcoding suggests that some of the morphological characters used in identification of the genus are inadequate, and there is an urgent need for wide-ranging taxonomic revision (Bell *et al.*, 2013).



Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. C and N Europe, becoming very scarce in the south, and not recorded from Spain, Albania or Greece; Macaronesia. Russia, China, Himalaya, Iran; N America south to Arizona and Texas.

S.D.S. Bosanquet & D.A. Callaghan