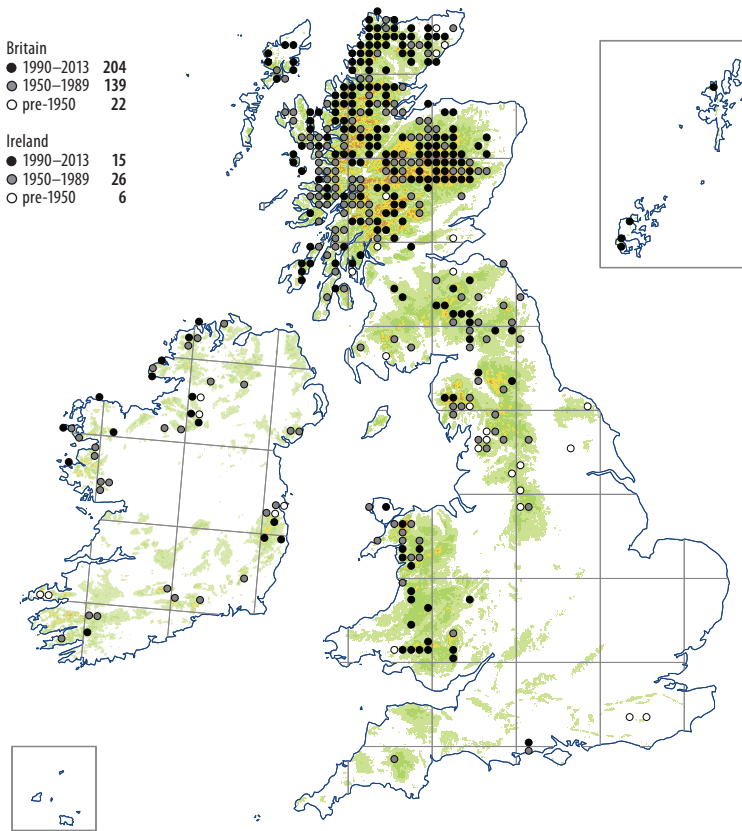


Anastrophyllum minutum



A calcifuge growing in a wide variety of sheltered habitats: peaty banks; shaded acid rock faces; block scree; tree stumps and sometimes living bark in woodland and ravines; and acid bogs, where it can grow over sphagnum and on drier hummocks. In subalpine and alpine sites, it grows in more exposed situations such as cliff ledges, boulders and open peaty banks, often in mixed bryophyte mats under *Calluna*. A broad spectrum of rock types is suitable, although sandstones are especially favoured. On basic substrates, even limestone, it will grow where a thin peaty crust has developed. Associates in peaty habitats include *Calypogeia* spp., *Kurzia* spp., *Tetraphis pellucida* and *Cladonia* spp. On rocks, it may grow in pure patches or mixed with *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* and *Diplophyllum albicans*. Although widespread through much of upland and northern Britain and Ireland, its patchiness is not easily explained; it is

quite rare in some apparently suitable districts. Altitudinal range: 20–1000 m.

Diocious; androecia and perianths common, sporophytes rare, June, July and September; gemmae are occasional.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Mountains of Europe south to Pyrenees and Caucasus; commoner and at lower altitudes in the north and west. Azores; northern Asia, Himalaya, Borneo, New Guinea; N America, Greenland; Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia; tropical African mountains, South Africa.

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