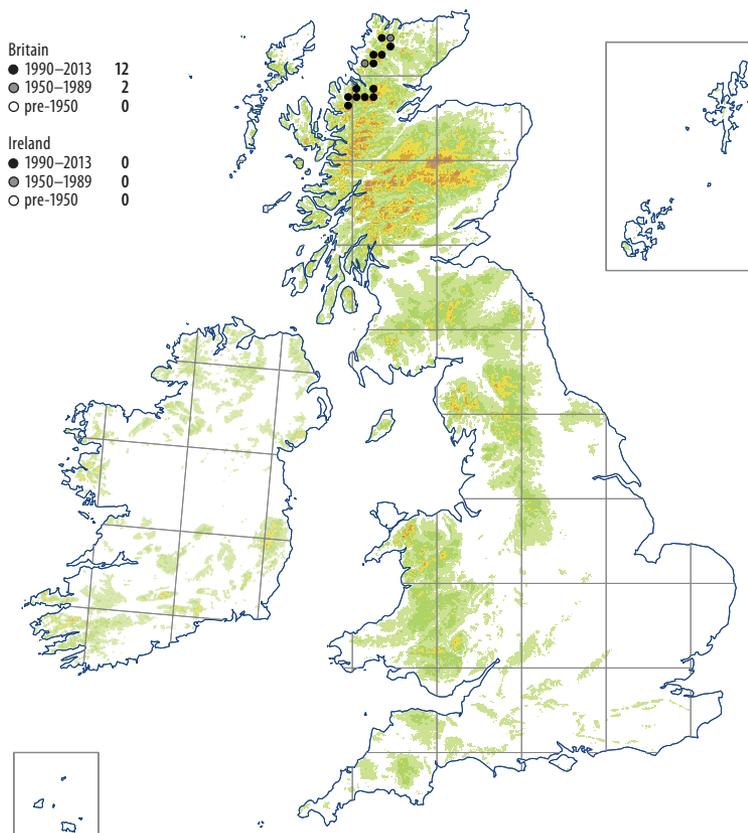


Anastrophyllum alpinum



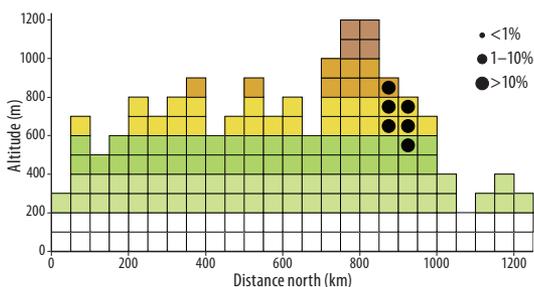
This recent segregate from *Anastrophyllum joergensenii* is abundant only on a few hills in Wester Ross and Sutherland, where it occupies similar habitats to, and often occurs intermixed with, *A. donianum*. It grows among boulders and dwarf shrubs on relatively well-drained slopes, where other associates in the 'northern hepatic mat' in which *A. alpinum* and *A. donianum* grow include *Bazzania pearsonii*, *Herbertus hutchinsiae*, *Mastigophora woodsii*, *Pleurozia purpurea* and *Scapania ornithopodioides*. Altitudinal range: 580–955 m.

Until recently, *A. alpinum* was thought to be the same species as *A. joergensenii*; indeed to most bryologists the relatively tall plants of the 'northern hepatic mat' were considered the normal form and the smaller plants now known to be typical *A. joergensenii* were thought to be a

'blanket bog form'. Their taxonomy was elucidated by Long *et al.* (2006).

Dioicous; gametangia, sporophytes and gemmae are not known from Scotland, but have been recorded in the Himalaya (Schill & Long, 2003).

Oceanic Boreal-montane. Absent from the rest of Europe; widespread in the Himalaya (Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan), Yunnan; Aleutian Islands. Like other disjunct oceanic montane hepatics (e.g. *Mastigophora woodsii*, *Plagiochila carringtonii*, *Pleurozia purpurea* and *Scapania ornithopodioides*) in the eastern Himalaya it is characteristic of moist juniper-rhododendron scrub just above the tree line, and on mossy rocks, logs and tree trunks in montane fir-rhododendron forests. It is possible that in Scotland these hepatics formerly grew at or near the natural tree line and in associated dwarf-shrub heaths. This transition is now almost totally lost in Scotland through a combination of clearance, burning and grazing.



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