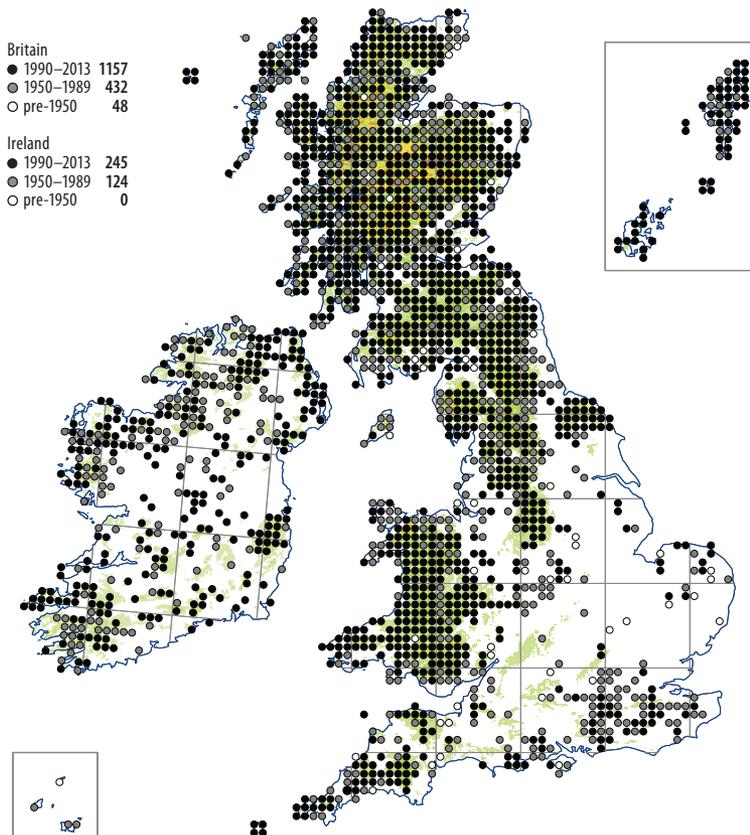


Lophozia ventricosa



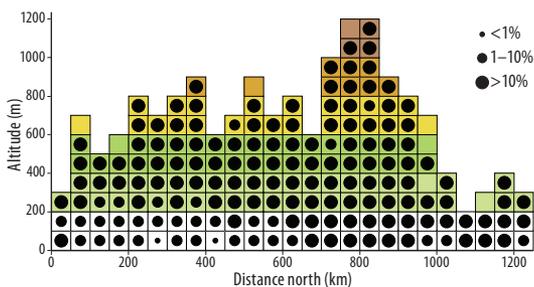
A very common species wherever acid soil or peaty ground is found, so rare only in the more calcareous lowlands of England and Ireland. In the north and west it is found in a multiplicity of habitats from leached sand dunes, woodlands, mossy walls, logs and stumps, to mine waste, old quarries and open peaty and rocky slopes; in subalpine and montane districts it is common in virtually all acid or peaty habitats, especially peaty banks, ditches, sphagnum bogs, dwarf-shrub heaths, boulders, screes and cliff ledges. Although a calcifuge, it is frequent on basic rocks where the soil is leached or a peaty or mossy crust has developed. Associates are usually other common species such as *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Gymnocolea inflata*, *Campylopus* spp., *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Sphagnum* spp. and *Cladonia* spp. in more open habitats; and a range of robust bryophytes such as *Plagiothecium undulatum* and

Rhytidiadelphus loreus on woodland banks and sheltered mossy slopes in the uplands. Altitudinal range: 5–1130 m.

Some decline is apparent in lowland England, probably because of habitat loss and degradation and perhaps reductions in acid rain.

Dioicous; fertile plants are common; sporophytes are occasional, February to September; gemmae are usually abundant.

In recent years *Lophozia ventricosa* var. *ventricosa* and var. *silvicola* have not been recognised in Britain and Ireland (Blockeel & Long, 1998; Paton, 1999), although they had previously been separated on the basis of their distinctive oil bodies. Bakalin (2001) proposes other characters to distinguish them. Few bryologists check the oil bodies of *L. ventricosa* or determine specimens to var. level, perhaps masking any ecological distinctions. In Pembrokeshire, Bosanquet (2010), disregarding the British consensus, found that var. *silvicola* was more restricted to the uplands than var. *ventricosa* and was the only variety recorded from *Sphagnum*, although there was overlap in habitats such as slate waste, block scree and tors.



Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Common through Europe south to the Mediterranean, north to Scandinavia and Iceland but rare in the Arctic. Turkey, Siberia, Russian Far East, Japan, China; N America south to New Mexico and Tennessee, Greenland.

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