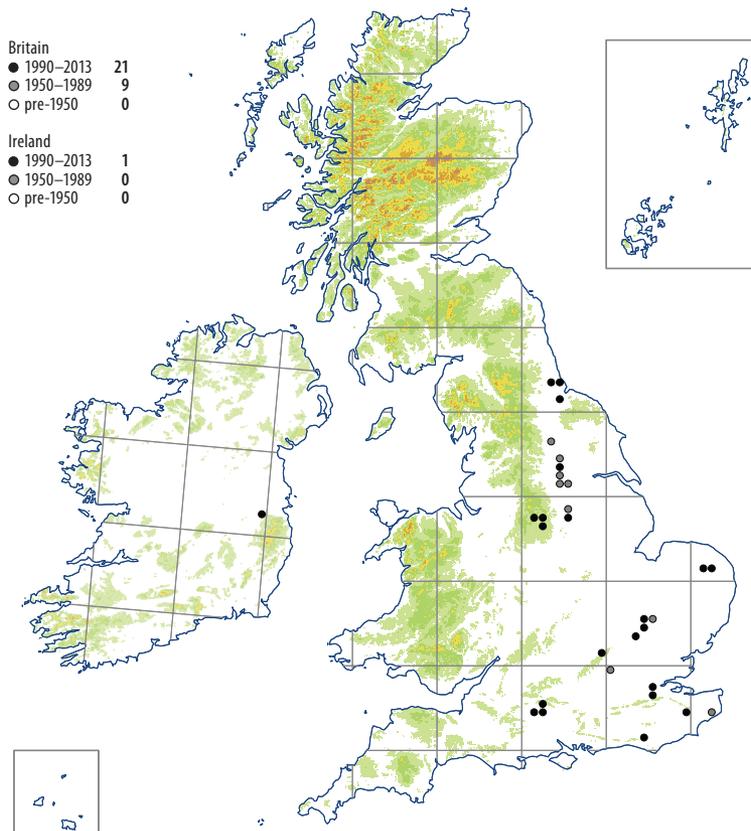


Lophozia perssonii



A strict calcicole, forming low green patches on disturbed soil and in open mossy turf in Magnesian and Carboniferous Limestone quarries, on soil and tracksides in chalk pits, beside tank tracks on Salisbury Plain (Pilkington, 2010), and in other bare patches in chalk grassland; rarely occurring on chalk boulders and found once on a limestone wall. On compacted soil it sometimes grows in sites which flood in wet weather but most of its habitats are relatively exposed and are liable to drying out in summer. It almost always grows with abundant *Leiocolea turbinata*. Other recorded associates include *Aneura pinguis*, *Cephaloziella baumgartneri*, *Jungermannia atrovirens*, *Leiocolea badensis*, *Abietinella abietina*, *Aloina* spp., *Bryum dichotomum*, *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*, *Dicranella varia*, *Didymodon* spp., *Encalypta streptocarpa*, *Homalothecium lutescens*, *Seligeria calcarea*,

Tortella tortuosa and *Weissia brachycarpa*. Altitudinal range: 20–230 m.

First discovered in Britain in 1965. Since that date, records have been steadily increasing, and the number of localities has doubled since the 1991–1994 Atlas. It is possible that the plant is slowly spreading, although bryologists are undoubtedly becoming more familiar with its appearance and habitat. Furthermore, *Lophozia perssonii* requires disturbance to help maintain the open conditions in which it grows, and some records relate to colonies that have subsequently been lost to succession. The overall population is therefore more likely to be stable.

Dioicous; female inflorescences are frequent, male inflorescences are rare, sporophytes are very rare; gemmae are usually abundant.

European Boreal-montane. N and C Europe south to Italy; Siberia; Alaska, North-west Territories, Greenland.

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