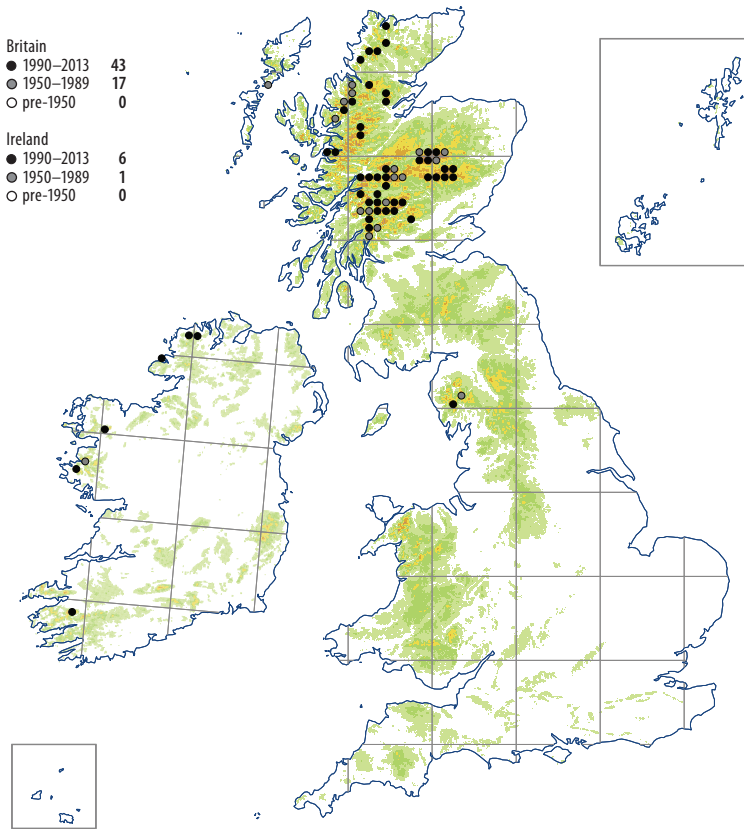


Lophozia opacifolia



On wet and dripping rocks in gullies and block screes, especially by waterfalls, springs and flushes, and on irrigated gravel and soil by streams, by lakes and in late-snow areas. It favours cool, shaded, north- to east-facing aspects, and grows with species such as *Anthelia julacea*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Moerckia blyttii*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Kiaeria starkei*, *Oligotrichum hercynicum* and *Pohlia nutans*. This species essentially replaces *Lophozia incisa* at higher altitudes in the mountains of Scotland and Ireland, although it has somewhat different substrate requirements. Altitudinal range: 405–1210 m.

Dioicous; gametangia and sporophytes are occasional, with capsules May to September; gemmae are usually present.

Confused with *L. incisa* until the 1950s and perhaps still overlooked as that species at outlying or low-altitude sites.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Known in Europe from the Pyrenees, Alps, Apennines, Carpathians, Scandinavia, Iceland and Svalbard. Siberia, Russian Far East; N America, Greenland.

D.G. Long

First detected in Britain in 1956 (Jones, 1957), it is now known to be common on many mountains. There has been no discernible change in its frequency.

