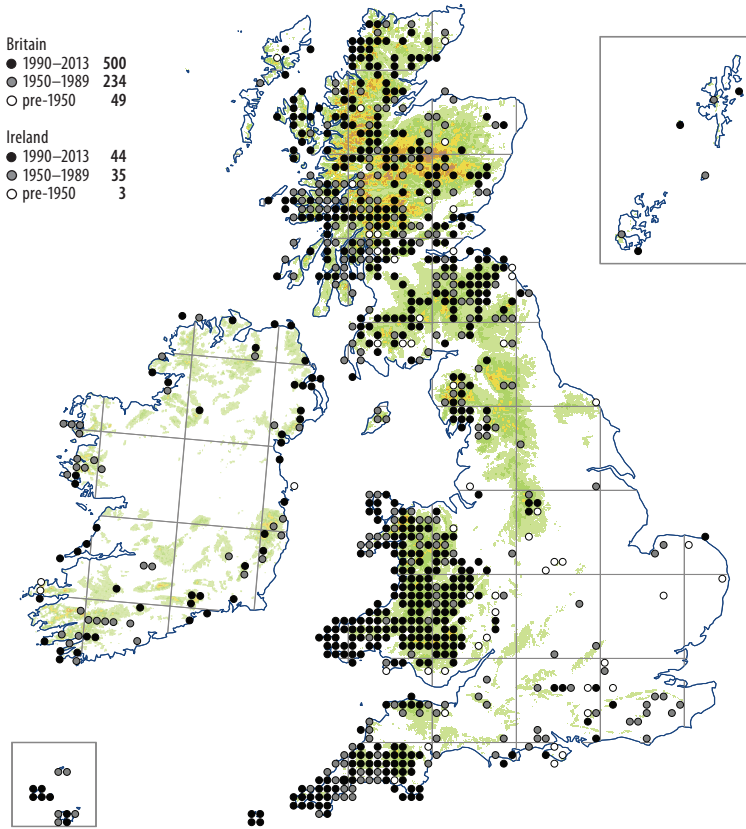


Scapania compacta



An aptly named *Scapania* growing in low dense tufts or extensive sheets in more xeric habitats than most other members of the genus, on exposed dry rock outcrops and boulders, and in rocky gullies, ravines and quarries, especially on rocks with a thin cover of, or pockets of, sandy soil or detritus. It commonly grows by rocky streams, but not as close to the water as *S. subalpina*. Common on sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks, especially granite, schist and basalt, but rarely on limestone. It is sometimes found on metalliferous mine waste, and tolerates high concentrations of copper (Holyoak & Lockhart, 2011). Occasionally it grows on walls and tree trunks, and on sandy heaths and peat. Common associates are *Barbilophozia floerkei*, *Frullania tamarisci*, *Lophozia ventricosa*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* s.l., *Polytrichum* spp.,

Racomitrium spp. and *Cladonia* spp. Altitudinal range: 0–780 m.

The apparent loss of populations in SE England is mirrored by a very marked contraction of its range in the Netherlands, which is attributed there to increasing nitrogen deposition and hence an increase in the growth of grasses in its heathland habitats (BLWG, 2013), and in Germany (Meinunger & Schröder, 2007).

Dioicous, paroiceous or autoicous; usually fertile, sporophytes are common, December to September; gemmae are very common.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Endemic to Europe and nearby territories. Throughout the Mediterranean region including Turkey, N Africa, Macaronesia and the Iberian Peninsula, north to southern Scandinavia, but rare away from the Atlantic coast.

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