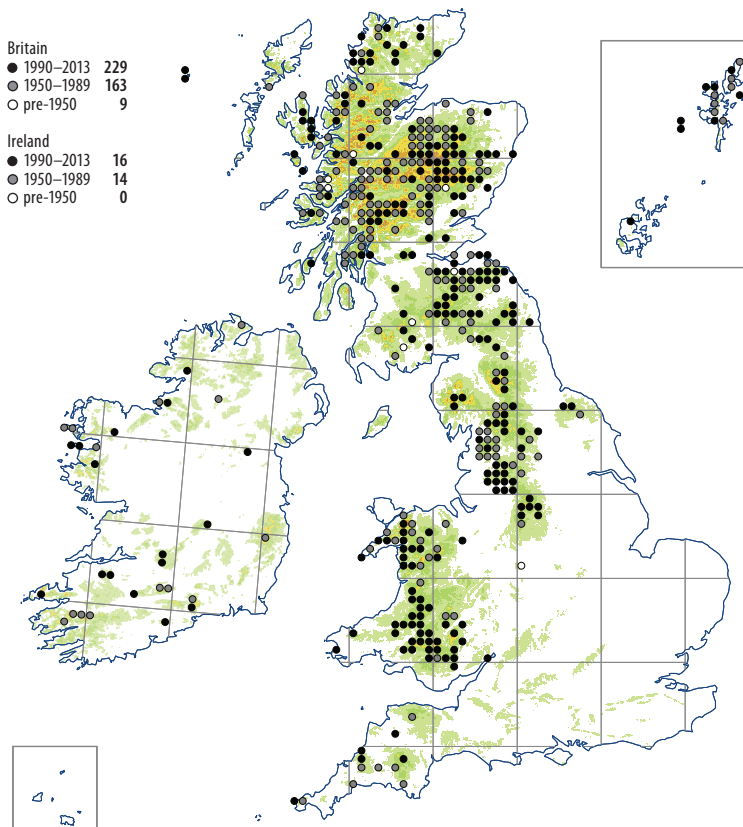


Scapania scandica



It is usually calcifuge, growing as a pioneer on soil, peat and rock in habitats such as crumbling banks, heathery slopes, forestry tracks, footpaths, sand dunes, moorlands and bogs; occasionally on rotten wood or bark. At higher altitudes it grows on moraine detritus, rocky gullies, streamsides, cliff ledges, stony fell fields and exposed mountain summits. A wide range of associates is recorded, the most frequent being other calcifuge pioneers such as *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Ditrichum heteromallum*, *Pohlia annotina*, *Pogonatum urnigerum* and *Polytrichum juniperinum*, and on exposed summits species such as *Marsupella brevissima* and *Ditrichum zonatum*. Altitudinal range: 15–1065 m.

Records peaked in the 1970s, once bryologists became fully familiar with the identification features of *Scapania scandica*, and have declined slightly since then.

Dioicous; androecia and perianths are common, sporophytes are rare, June to August; gemmae are usually present.

Formerly considered rare because of confusion with *S. curta*, and still somewhat overlooked as *S. irrigua*. Improved recording has now given a relatively accurate picture of its British distribution, albeit with patchy records in some areas, such as the Lake District and SW Scotland, where it should be common.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Widespread in N Europe and the mountains of C Europe. Azores, Faeroes, Iceland. NW Himalaya, Siberia, Kamchatka, Sakhalin, Japan; northern and western N America, Greenland.

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