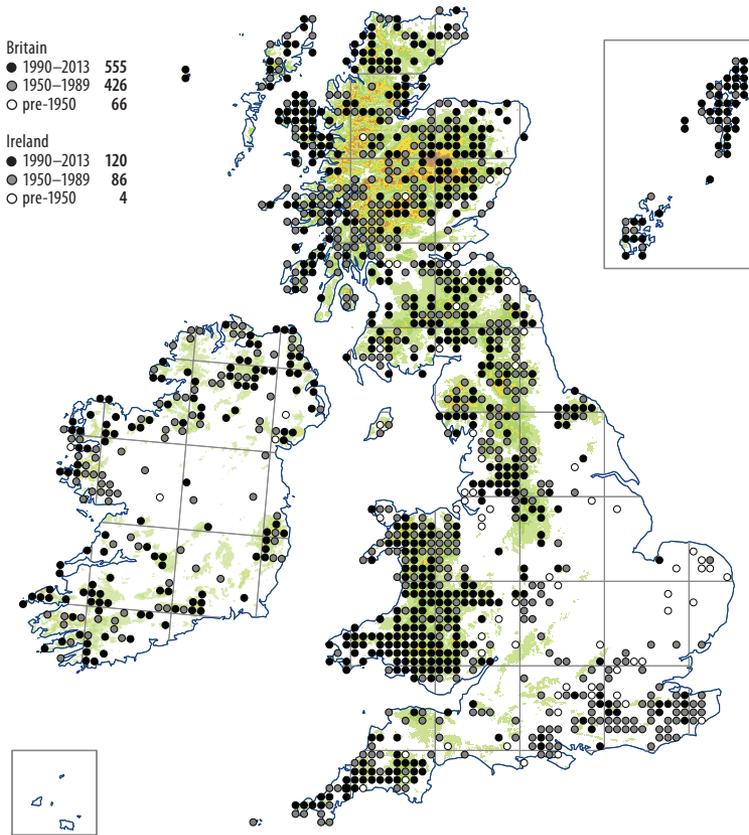


Scapania irrigua



Typically a colonist of damp, disturbed or compacted soil, clay, mud and gravel on footpaths, woodland tracks, old quarries, detritus on streamsides and margins of lakes and reservoirs; also in marshes and boggy pastures. It is occasionally found in coastal dune slacks. Associated bryophytes include *Pellia* spp., *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *C. lindbergii*, *Philonotis fontana* and bulbiferous *Pohlia* spp. In these habitats it grows generally on acid and circumneutral substrates. A more robust, erect form grows in damp, stony and grassy flushes on mountains, often on base-rich substrates such as limestone and mica-schist. In this habitat it can grow with *Aneura pinguis*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Scorpidium revolvens* and *Sphagnum* spp., especially *S. inundatum*. Altitudinal range: 0–1120 m.

Scapania irrigua has declined relatively steadily in lowland England since at least the 1960s, and this is matched by a decline in the Netherlands (BLWG, 2013) and, through habitat destruction, in northern Germany (Meinunger & Schröder, 2007). In contrast, records from northern and western Britain suggested a decline in the 1980s and 1990s followed by a resurgence in the early 21st century. This may indicate increased availability and usage of forestry tracks in much of upland Britain, but equally could reflect an increased tendency of bryologists to focus recording efforts on such habitats.

Dioicous; androecia and perianths are common, sporophytes are rare, February to May; gemmae are commonly produced.

Typical small forms of *S. irrigua* are seldom confused with other species, but the large wetland morphotype can closely mimic *S. paludicola*. Errors at the hectad scale are unlikely because of the frequency of the typical, small plant.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Found throughout Europe, especially in mountainous regions, south to the Caucasus and north to Scandinavia, Faeroes, Iceland and Svalbard. Turkey, Siberia, Kamchatka, Sakhalin, Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan; northern and western N America, Greenland.

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