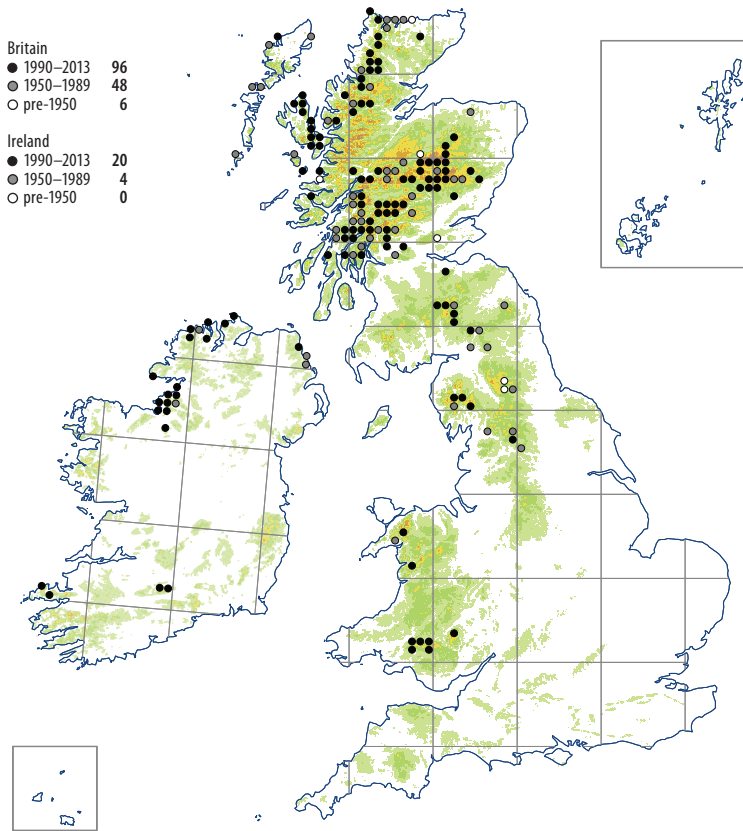


Scapania aequiloba



It favours well-drained, strongly calcareous substrates, especially schists, base-rich sandstones and limestones, often in rather exposed situations, such as mountain cliff ledges, boulders and mossy turfs, but also on rocks in ravines. It is uncommon in moister places such as boulders in streams and flushes. Frequent associates in rocky habitats are *Blepharostoma trichophyllum*, *Cololejeunea calcarea*, *Frullania tamarisci*, *Anoetangium aestivum*, *Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Ditrichum gracile*, *Fissidens adianthoides* and *Tortella tortuosa*, whilst in flushes it can grow with *Selaginella selaginoides* and *Scapania degenii*. In the extreme north and west it is found rarely in damp turf on coastal shell sand, with *Scapania aspera*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Fissidens dubius*. Altitudinal range: 5–1080 m.

Observations of moribund patches on the cliffs of the Brecon Beacons in the mid-2000s suggest this species may be vulnerable to climate change on the southern edge of its British range. There are no other indications of a decline.

Dioicous; perianths are occasional, sporophytes are unknown in Britain and Ireland; gemmae are usually present.

Over-recorded in the past because of confusion with small forms of *S. aspera*. Long (1978) revised the British records of both species, and subsequent records should be accurate.

European Boreo-arctic montane. A European alpine near endemic, on all calcareous mountain ranges of Europe, south to Spain and Italy, north to Scandinavia; Turkey and the Caucasus.

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