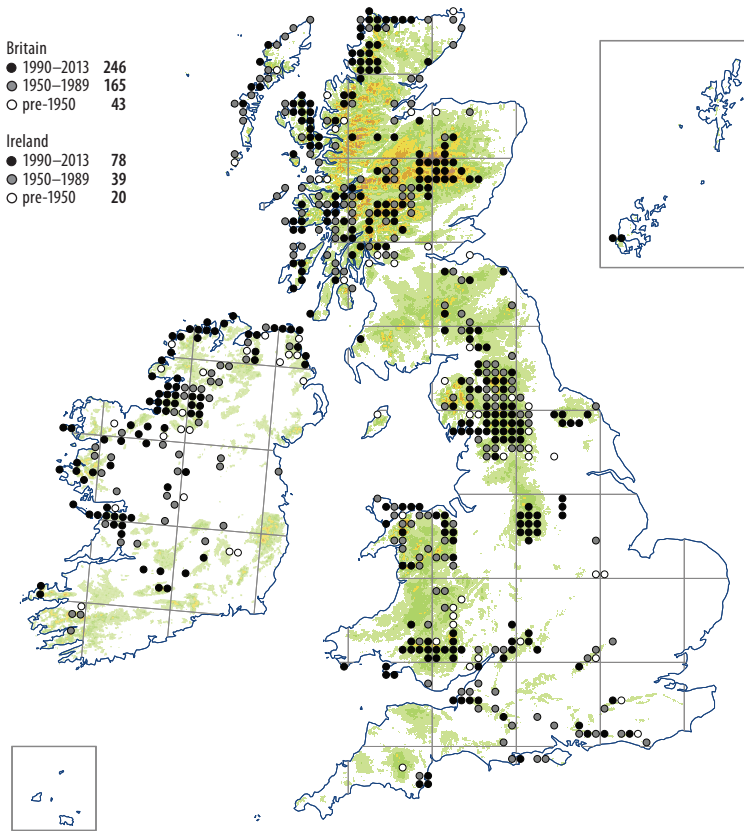


Scapania aspera



A more southern, less montane taxon than *Scapania aequiloba*, but otherwise quite similar in its ecological requirements. It is abundant in the limestone regions of N England and S Wales; elsewhere it is only locally common on limestones, chalk, basic schists, basic igneous and basic sandstone rocks and soil, and not infrequently on calcareous sand dunes. In chalk or limestone turf it characterises the community *Scapanietum asperae* (Porley & Rose, 2001). On rocks, associates include many common calcicoles, in particular *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Ditrichum gracile* and *Tortella tortuosa*; in basic turf they include *Selaginella selaginoides*, *Breutelia chrysocoma*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Rhytiadelphus triquetrus*; and on sand dunes *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Didymodon fallax*. Altitudinal range: 0–880 m.

The *Scapanietum asperae* has been lost from nearly two thirds of its 30 sites (Porley & Rose, 2001) because of loss of grazing from many areas of downland. Elsewhere in Britain and Ireland *S. aspera* has not shown much change in frequency.

Diocious; perianths and androecia are common, sporophytes are rare, May to July; gemmae are usually abundant.

European Boreo-temperate. A European near endemic with a distribution similar to that of *S. aequiloba*, but rarer in the north and commoner in the south, to Sicily, the Balearics and Greece; Turkey and the Caucasus.

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