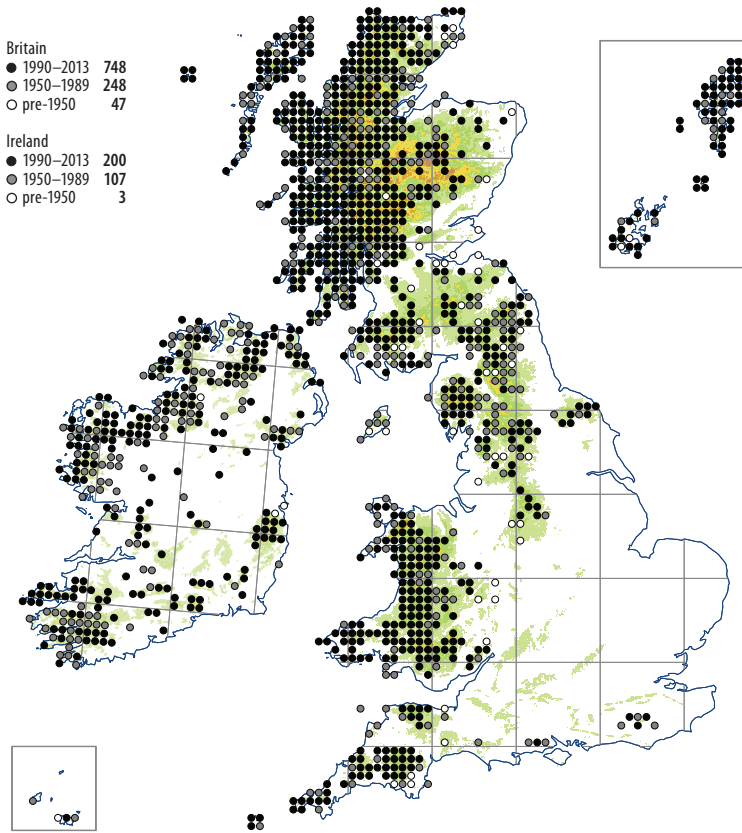


Scapania gracilis



A conspicuous hepatic abundant over much of northern and western Britain and Ireland, in a wide range of habitats. It is particularly common in rocky places, especially on acid but sometimes on mildly basic substrates, both in woodland and in more open situations. Habitats include coastal rocky banks and gullies, woods, exposed rocky hillsides, cliffs, block screes and rocky lake margins. In woodland, it often grows in extensive sheets on boulders, logs, stumps and living tree trunks, with associates such as *Hymenophyllum wilsonii*, *Frullania tamarisci*, *Plagiochila punctata* and *P. spinulosa*. It is usually a conspicuous component of oceanic montane bryophyte mats, both in dwarf-shrub heaths and in sheltered block screes, with *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Bazzania tricrenata*, *Herbertus hutchinsiae*, *Pleurozia purpurea* and with rarities such as *Anastrophyllum donnianum*, *Mastigophora*

woodsii and *Plagiochila carringtonii*. Altitudinal range: 0–900 m.

Dioicous; plants are often fertile, perianths and sporophytes are frequent, March to July; gemmae are usually abundant.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Found throughout the coastal regions and adjacent mountainous parts of western Europe, from Portugal and Spain to Norway, Sweden and Denmark; also in Italy, Romania, Turkey, Morocco, Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores.

D.G. Long

