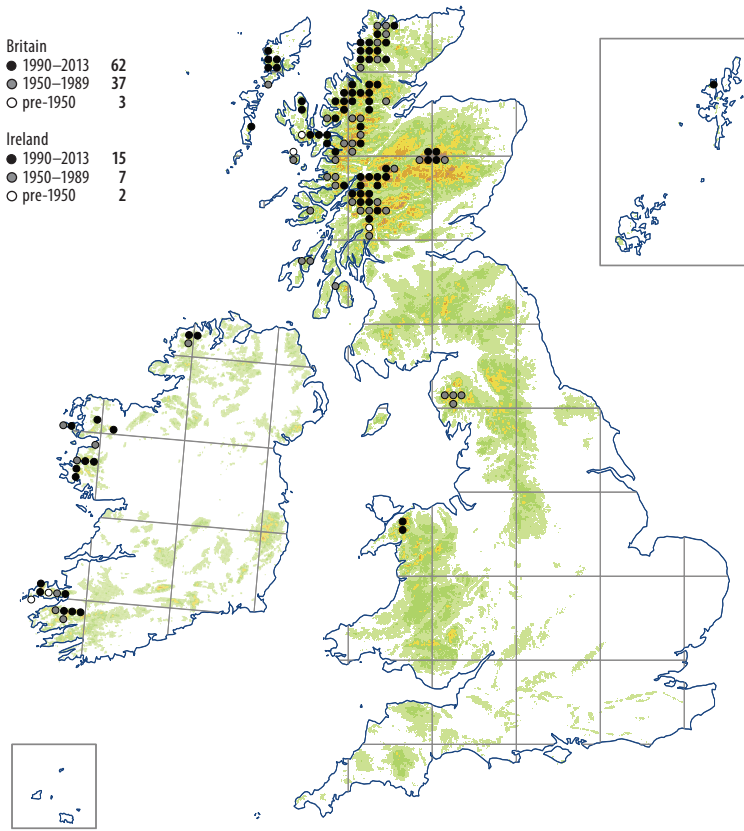


Scapania ornithopodioides



A distinctive species growing as scattered stems amongst other bryophytes or as pure, dark reddish-brown patches at moderate to high altitudes in mossy block screes, on rocky well-drained slopes, on ledges on or at base of low cliffs, and in dwarf-shrub heaths. Most commonly found on acid substrates on open slopes or in mountain corries with a northerly to easterly aspect, where shade and humidity are maintained. In the Cairngorms it grows in mossy block screes in late-snow areas. All sites enjoy a cool wet climate. Characteristic associates include a range of other oceanic montane hepatics such as *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Anastrophyllum donnianum*, *Bazzania pearsonii*, *Mastigophora woodsii* and *Pleurozia purpurea*, and commoner species such as *Bazzania tricrenata*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Mylia taylorii*, *Scapania gracilis* and *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. Although abundant and prominent at some sites, it can

grow in extremely small quantity and is then rather easily overlooked, as at Ronas Hill, Shetland. Altitudinal range: 100–1040 m.

Dioicous; usually non-fertile, perianths are very rare, male plants and sporophytes are unknown; gemmae are rare.

Oceanic Boreal-montane. Disjunct in cool temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere and on tropical islands: SW Norway, Faeroes; Himalaya, China, Japan, Taiwan, Borneo, Philippines, Sulawesi; Hawaii; Aleutians, Alaska, British Columbia.

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