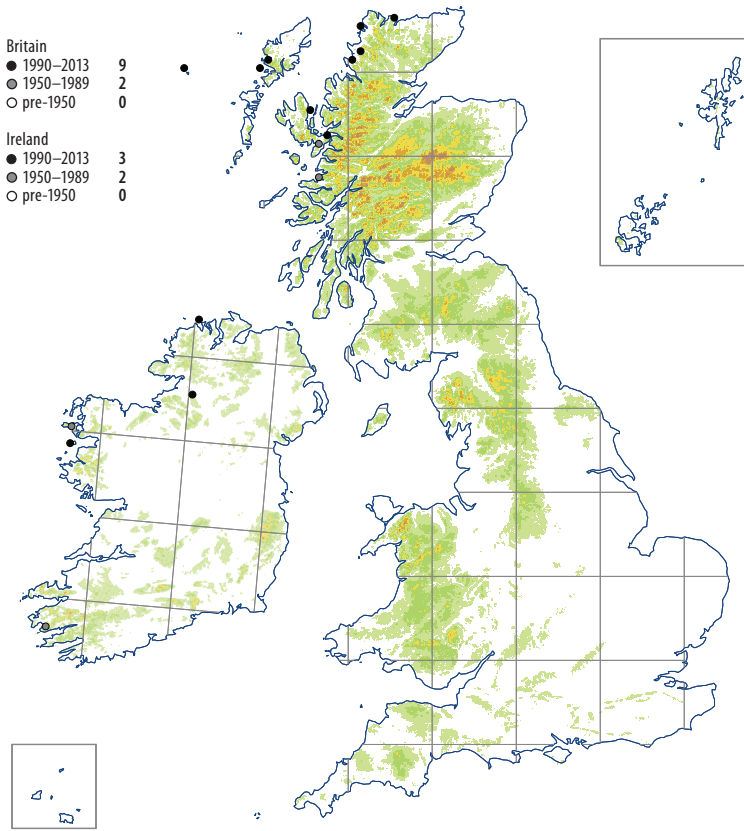


# Geocalyx graveolens



It is confined to shaded, sheltered, north-facing, moist humus banks and rocks near the sea, where the microclimate is constantly humid. *Geocalyx* occurs mixed with other bryophytes on damp, humus-rich soil and is commonly associated with *Dryopteris aemula*, *Harpanthus scutatus*, *Lepidozia cupressina*, *Mylia taylorii*, *Saccogyna viticulosa*, *Scapania gracilis* and *Plagiothecium undulatum*, often below a canopy of overhanging *Calluna* and sometimes in semi-natural woodland. Many colonies are very small. Its rarity in Britain and Ireland is curious considering the widespread nature of its habitat in the west. The only inland record came from peaty humus on a more or less base-rich ledge, on a north-facing sandstone escarpment in Lough Navar Forest. Elsewhere in Europe its habitats are more varied and include rotten wood, rocks and soil. Altitudinal range: 10–300 m.

Continued exploration of the western seaboard has gradually revealed further colonies of this species, which is no longer the extreme rarity that it appeared to be at the time of the 1991–1994 Atlas.

Autoicous, usually fertile; sporophytes are fairly frequent, May to June; gemmae are unknown.

European Boreal-montane. Widely, but sparsely, distributed throughout Europe, including Scandinavia, Romania and Spain; its extreme western distribution in Britain is inexplicable in view of its distribution and ecology in mainland Europe (where it is often a plant of rotting logs in old-growth forests). Azores; Caucasus; Siberia, Russian Far East, China, Himalaya, Hawaii; much of N America; Dominican Republic.

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