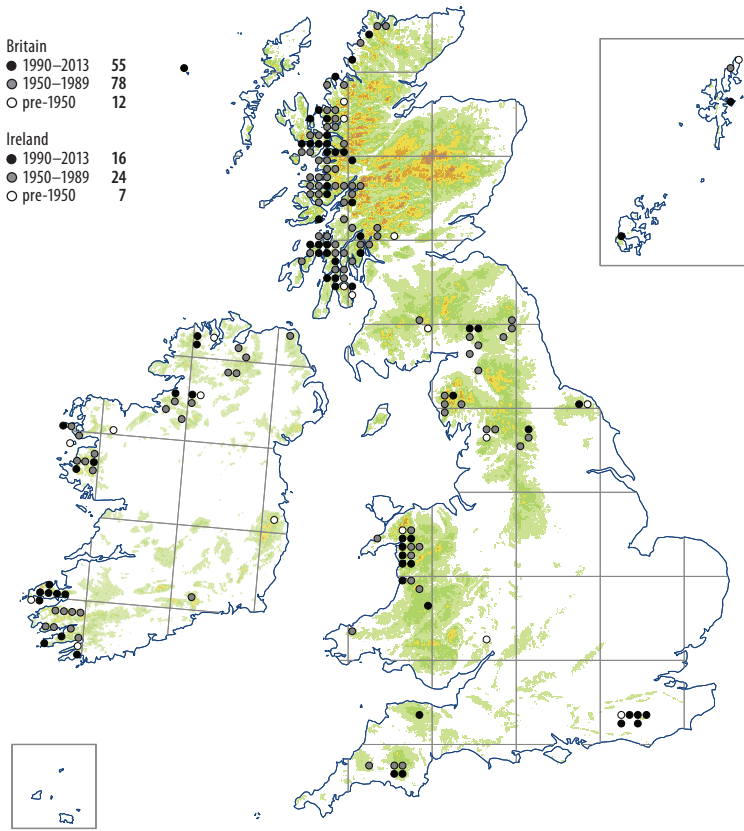


Harpanthus scutatus



It usually occurs in small quantity in a range of shaded habitats, commonly facing north or east. These include damp peat or humus banks near the sea with *Mylia taylorii*, *Calypogeia neesiana*, *Lepidozia cupressina* and *Saccogyna viticulosa*; dry moss-covered acid boulders in deciduous woods on steep, block-strewn slopes; rather bare steep blocks in woods that are intermittently irrigated by water, where it commonly occurs with *Scapania umbrosa*, *Heterocladium heteropterum* and *Hypnum callichroum*; shaded sandstone rocks and blocks that are continually moist, with *Calypogeia integristipula*, *Kurzia sylvatica* and *Tritomaria exsecta*; and decaying logs in deciduous woods with *Jamesoniella autumnalis*, *Lepidozia reptans* and *Tritomaria* species. Altitudinal range: 5–440 m.

The apparent decline shown by *Harpanthus scutatus* may result from inconspicuous small colonies being overlooked during recent recording, for example in northern England. However, it is notable that very few populations were recorded during Red Data Book work in Ireland, despite visits to many suitable areas.

Dioicous; often fertile; capsules are rare, May to August. Gemmae are fairly common.

European Boreal-montane. It occurs widely throughout Europe and does not have a strongly western European distribution, extending from Bulgaria northwards to Finland, Iceland and Russia. Turkey, Russia, Japan, Korea; eastern N America from Labrador to Tennessee.

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