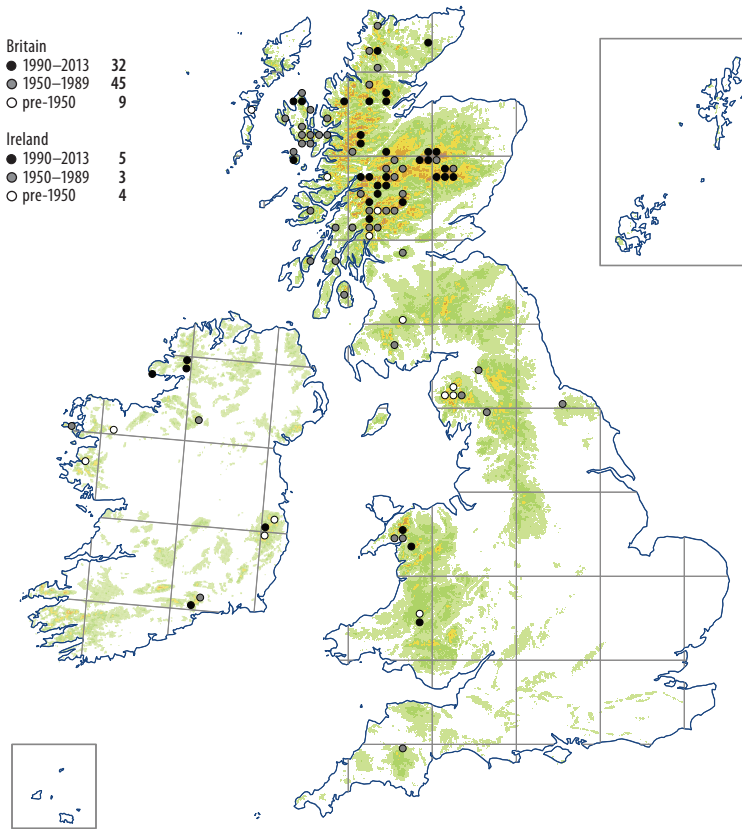


Marsupella sphacelata



A calcifuge common only in montane habitats such as late-snow areas and sheltered north- and east-facing gullies, where it grows on wet rock slabs and boulders in and by streams and flushes. Plants on more exposed rocks and gravelly or peaty slopes tend to be smaller in stature and grow in mixed patches with other dwarf species such as *Anthelia julacea*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Polytrichum piliferum* and *Racomitrium* spp. Plants growing in springs, on wet rocks and submerged in snow-melt streams and lake margins frequently grow in robust masses, often pure or mixed with species such as *Scapania uliginosa*, *S. undulata* and *Philonotis fontana*. At lower altitudes it has been recorded as a colonist of shaly forest tracks. In Argyll, and perhaps in N Wales, it is associated with copper-rich rocks. Altitudinal range: 100–1200 m.

Records suggest a degree of loss from the southern part of this species' British range since the 1980s, although it is easily overlooked and just four recorders are responsible for most of the post-1990 records.

Dioicous; usually fertile; sporophytes are occasional, May to August.

Identification problems may have led to this species being overlooked in places as the common and variable *Marsupella emarginata*.

European Boreo-arctic montane. Mountains of Europe south to Greece, Corsica, Spain and the Azores, north to Iceland, Scandinavia and European Russia. Siberia, Russian Far East, NE China, Korea, Japan; N America, Greenland.

D.G. Long, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet

