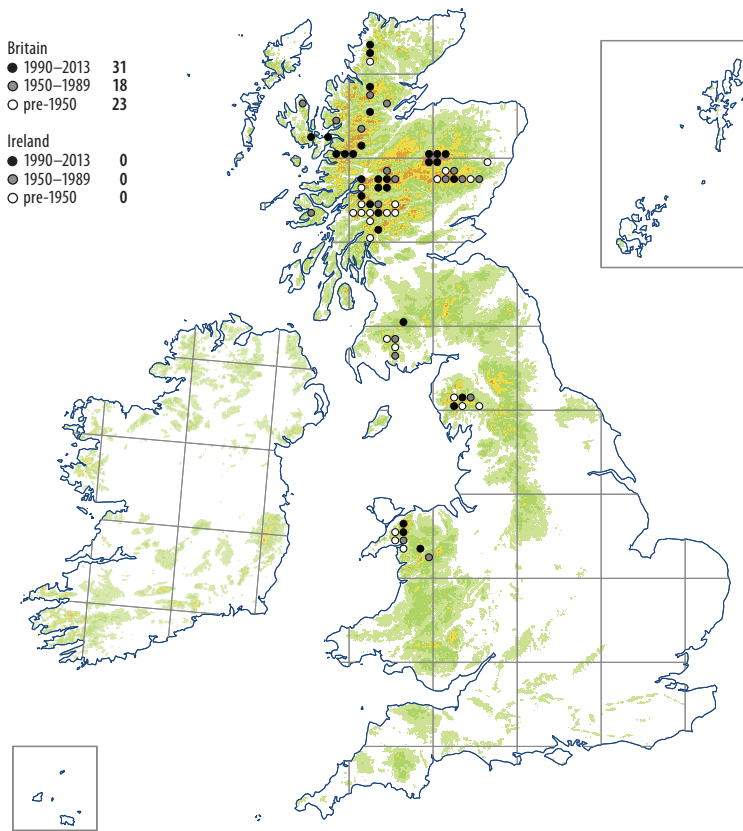


Marsupella alpina



This species favours wet or intermittently irrigated rocks walls, crevices in gullies on cliffs, slabs, dripping rocks and damp scree blocks, usually in sites with a sheltered north to east aspect on mountains. Granitic and gneissic rocks are its usual substrates, but it can grow on more basic schists and basalt. It occurs more rarely on peaty or gravelly soil, but almost always in damp rocky sites close to flushes or snow patches. The *Andreaea*-like patches, though not extensive, are often relatively pure; recorded associates are few but include *Anthelia julacea*, *Gymnomitrium crenulatum*, *G. obtusum*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Andreaea* spp. and *Ditrichum zonatum*. Only common above 650 m altitude. Altitudinal range: 55–1200 m.

Some populations on soil may have been confused with *M. brevisissima*, but most bryologists who record at high-altitude localities are aware of this potential confusion; even so, some plants can be hard to assign but this is unlikely to affect the overall pattern of distribution.

Suboceanic Arctic-montane. Mountains of C and E Europe, south to Italy and Spain; at lower altitudes in Scandinavia. Siberia, Russian Far East, Japan, China, Korea, Nepal; Aleutians and western N America from Alaska to Washington.

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

Dioicous; fertile plants are common, sporophytes are occasional, June to September.

