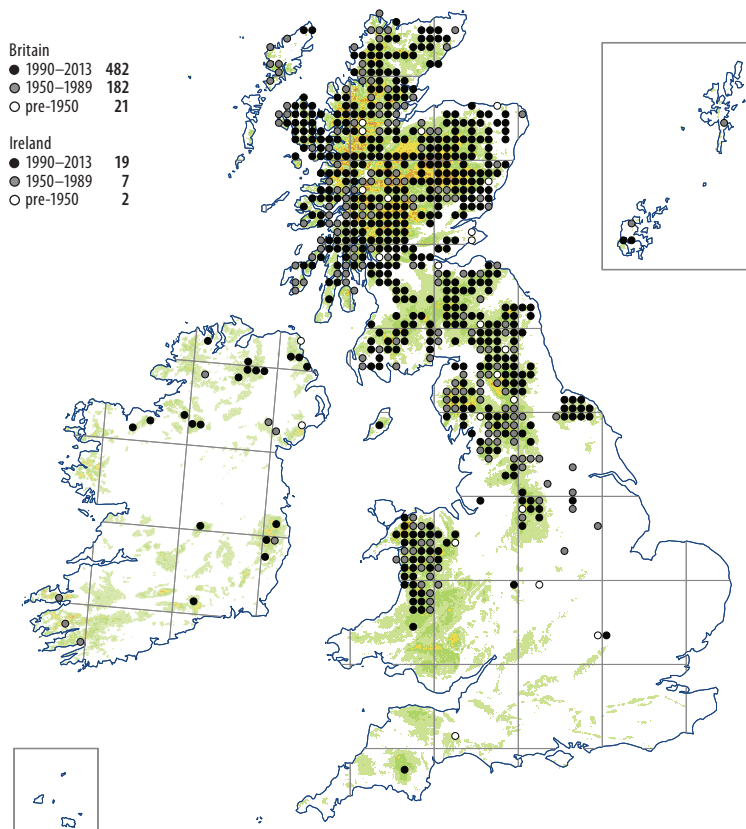


# *Sphagnum girgensohnii*



This species has a wide ecological range, including moist broadleaved woodland, damp conifer plantations, flushed grassy and heathery banks, streamsides, and *Juncus effusus* marshes, especially where there is slight base-enrichment of the ground water. *Polytrichum commune* and *Sphagnum fallax* are common associates. At lower altitudes it is rather shade-demanding, growing on sheltered banks, in the shade of trees, or under tall-growing *Juncus*. At higher altitudes it occurs also on more open ground, for example in small-sedge communities. Its range of habitats is similar to that of *S. russowii*, with which it frequently grows. Altitudinal range: 5–1100 m.

popularity of sphagnum identification in recent years. Neither species increased more in highly coniferised hectads than in less coniferised hectads. Nevertheless, they both thrive on banks beside forest roads in conifer plantations, where they have become more conspicuous if not more common.

Diocious; capsules are rare, August.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Northern Europe and mountains further south, with scattered occurrences in the lowlands of C and W Europe. Northern Asia and northern N America, including the Arctic and continental interiors.

M.O. Hill

Both *S. girgensohnii* and *S. russowii* have been recorded much more frequently since 2000, increasing by a factor of two. This effect seems to be mainly due to the increased

