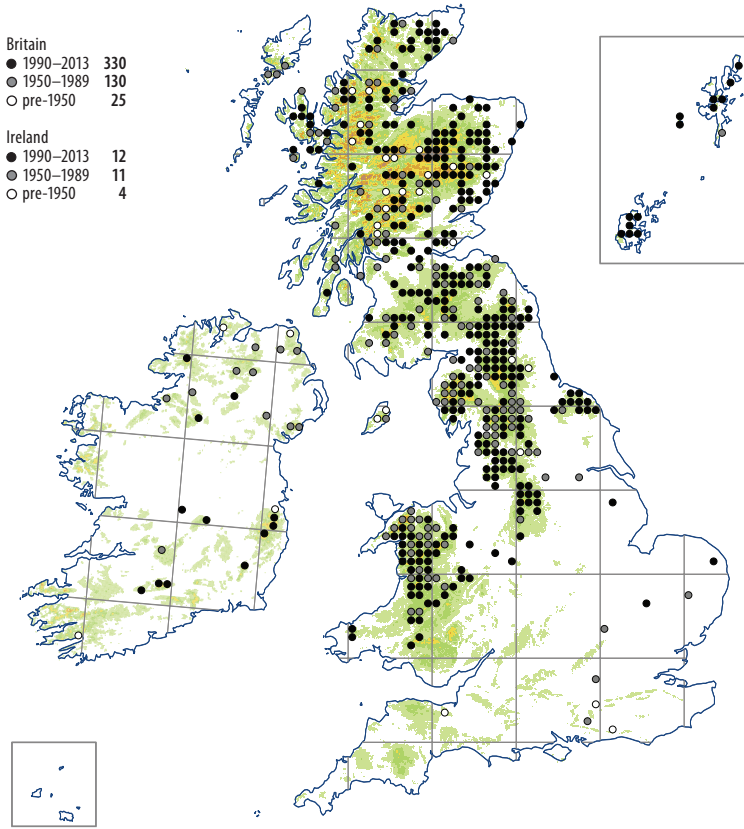


Sphagnum russowii



In a wide range of habitats, chiefly on moorlands and mountains. One major habitat is intermittently flushed grassy and rocky banks, both on moors and in upland woods, including conifer plantations, where typical associates include *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* and *Sphagnum quinquefarium*. It also grows in slightly basic springs, ditches and soaks, and occasionally on unflushed blanket peat. Altitudinal range: 0–1110 m.

Some of the occurrences in lowland England were in wet secondary woodland, where *S. russowii* was a recent colonist. These colonies did not persist. At Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, the site became suitable as a result of surface acidification and scrub development. Then the water table was raised, reversing the acidification, and the scrub was cleared. *S. russowii* vanished. As noted under

S. girgensohnii, there was a large increase in records of *S. russowii* after 2000. This was probably due to greater recording skill of bryologists and not because of an increase in *S. russowii*. The species was known to be under-recorded in the 1991–1994 atlas.

Dioicous; both sexes are common but capsules are rare.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Northern Europe and mountains further south. Northern Asia and northern N America, including the Arctic and continental interiors.

M.O. Hill

