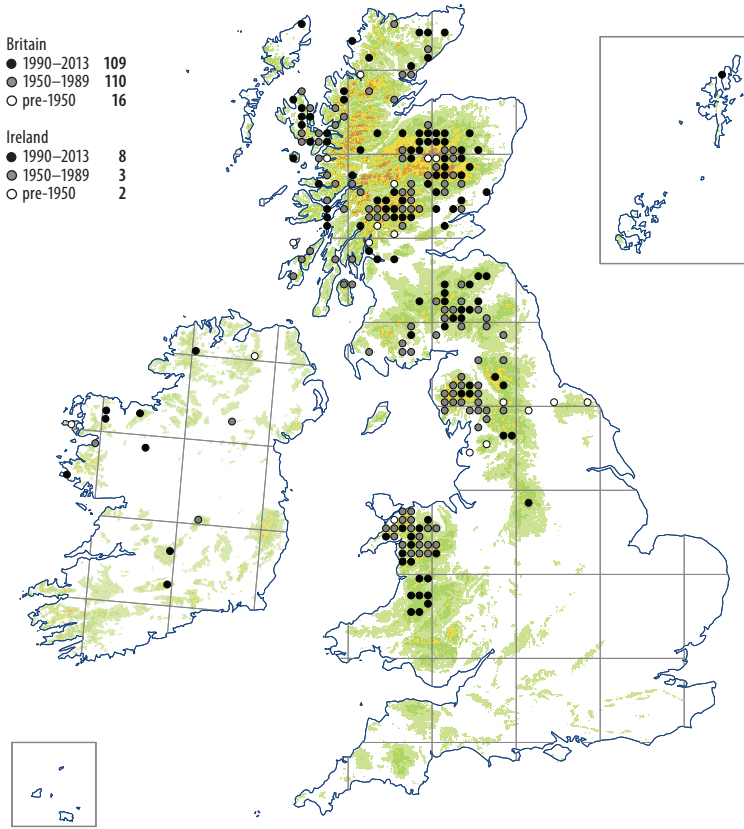


Sphagnum warnstorffii



One of the most base-demanding sphagna, confined to sites with obvious enrichment of the ground water. Habitats include flushes on mountains and moorland, wet open scrubby woodland, marshes, stream banks and flushed valley bottoms. *Carex panicea*, *C. rostrata* and *Juncus acutiflorus* are common associates, as are the mesotrophic sphagna *Sphagnum contortum*, *S. subsecundum* and *S. teres*. Altitudinal range: 10–720 m.

(Hill & Edwards, 2003). According to Shaw & Cox (2005), hybridisation and introgression between members of *Sphagnum* section *Acutifolia* are frequent, with *S. fuscum*, *S. rubellum* and *S. warnstorffii* characterised as “especially promiscuous”.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Northern Europe south to the Pyrenees and mountains of C Europe. Widespread across northern Asia and northern N America, including the tundra and continental interiors.

Dioicous. Capsules have not been found in Britain.

Plants that are morphologically intermediate between *S. warnstorffii* and *S. capillifolium* subsp. *rubellum* are occasionally found, mainly in intermediate habitats. One such population was noted from a mesotrophic flush in Dorset, well outside the present range of *S. warnstorffii*

M.O. Hill

