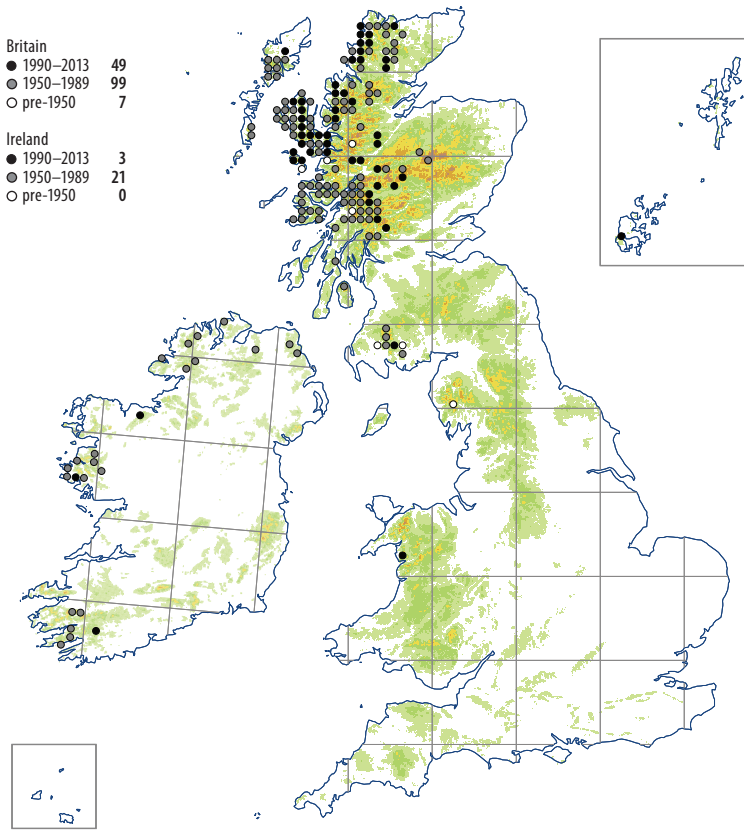


# Sphagnum strictum



On moist peaty banks, in oligotrophic flush bogs, on shallow blanket bogs and in wet heaths, almost invariably among *Molinia caerulea* and often with *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Myrica gale*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Trichophorum cespitosum* and *Sphagnum tenellum*. The habitat is rather similar to that of *S. compactum*, and *S. strictum* may also be favoured by disturbance. It normally grows in well-illuminated situations but can persist for several years in shade beside ditches and under trees in young forestry plantations. Altitudinal range: 20–560 m.

This amphi-Atlantic species was first collected in Scotland in 1885 but was not correctly identified until it was discovered in three separate locations by the Norwegian botanist, Johannes Lid, on a visit to Scotland in 1925 (Lid, 1929). Its apparent decline in western Scotland is puzzling, as it is still

frequent on Rum, where it was found in 15 tetrads between 2000 and 2006 (Pearman *et al.*, 2008). In SW Scotland, many of its localities may have been planted with conifers, but there is no obvious reason for its disappearance in the western Highlands and nearby islands.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, summer.

Hyperoceanic Temperate. Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and S Sweden; very rare except in western Norway, where it reaches the Arctic Circle. C and S Africa, Madagascar, SE Asia, eastern N America, C America, S America.

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