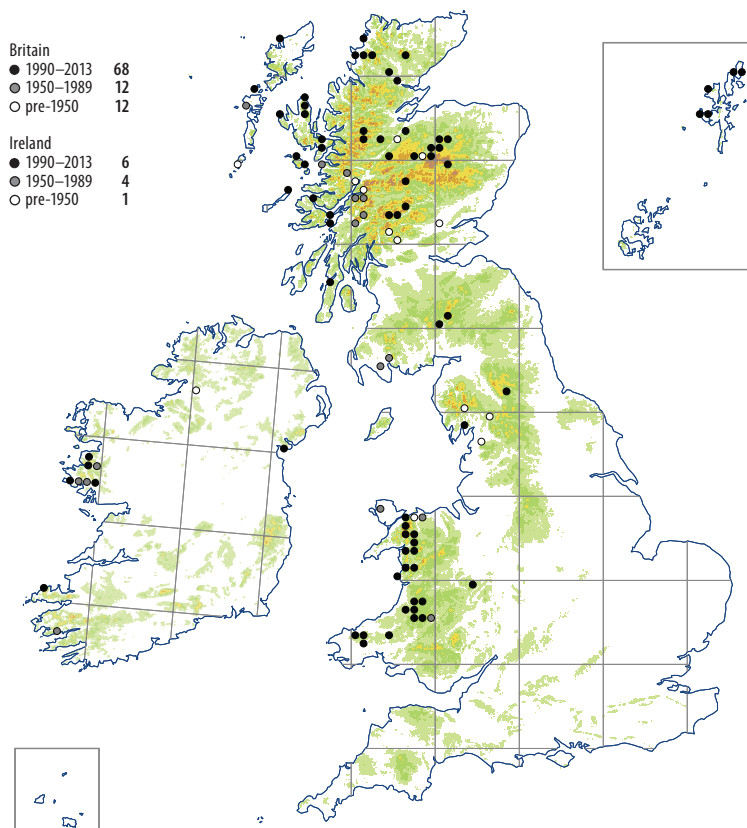


Sphagnum platyphyllum



One of the most base-demanding sphagna, it occurs in base-rich flushes within a matrix of heathland or moorland, mainly in high-rainfall areas. Typical associates are *Carex demissa*, *C. panicea*, *C. pulicaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* and *Scorpidium* spp. It also grows on wetter ground in soaks with *Hypericum elodes* and *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. In many of its localities it must become desiccated during droughts; this may be an ecological factor that favours its occurrence. Altitudinal range: 5–750 m.

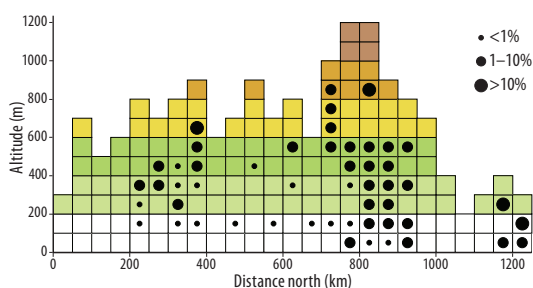
past. Given its rather continental distribution in mainland Europe, its western tendency in Britain and Ireland is unexpected.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Iceland and northern Fennoscandia south to the mountains of C and S Europe. Northern Asia and N America, present in continental interiors; disjunct in Costa Rica.

M.O. Hill

Dioicous; sex organs and capsules have not been observed in Britain or Ireland.

After 2000, several bryologists learnt to recognise this rather inconspicuous species, which was much overlooked in the



▼ Wildmoor, Shropshire, 2012. Des Callaghan

