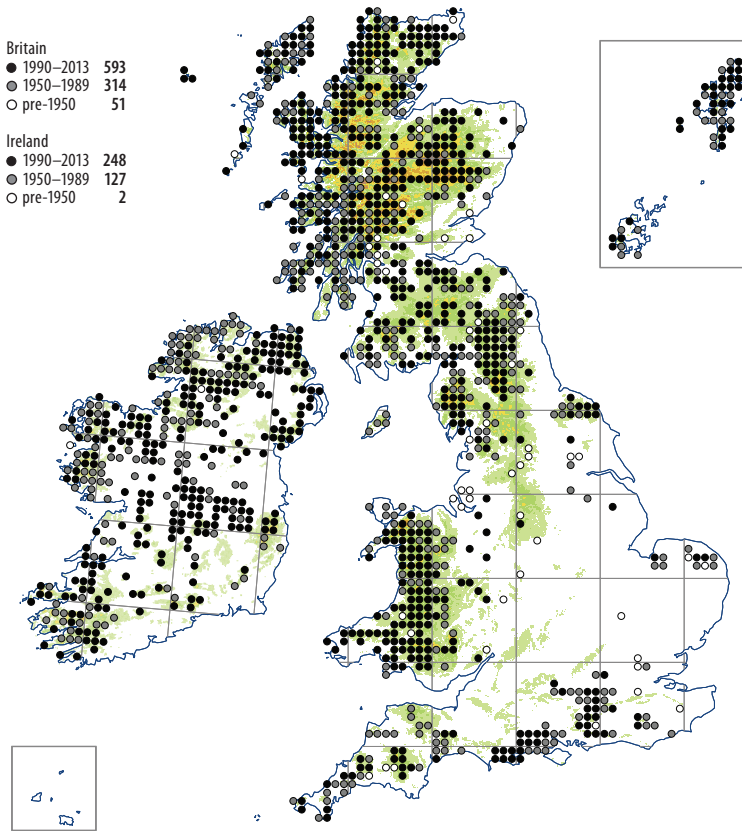


Sphagnum tenellum



This pretty little sphagnum occurs in a range of unshaded moist or wet peaty habitats where the soil is very acid. In bogs it occupies a position intermediate between *Sphagnum capillifolium* on hummocks and *S. cuspidatum* in hollows, commonly growing with one or other of them and with *S. papillosum* and *S. fallax*. On heaths it is found on moist ground subject to occasional burning, often as an associate of *S. compactum*. In areas of high rainfall it also occurs on flushed heathy banks, on mountain crags, and in sheltered crevices among rocks. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, ripening in summer, often in July, about three weeks earlier than those of other sphagnum species.

Suboceanic Boreo-temperate. W Europe from Spain to northern Norway, extending east through C Europe to western Russia. Eastern Asia, western and eastern N America, S Greenland, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil.

M.O. Hill

It has declined significantly in the British lowlands, especially since 2000.

▼ Woodbury Common, South Devon, 2013. Joanne Denyer

