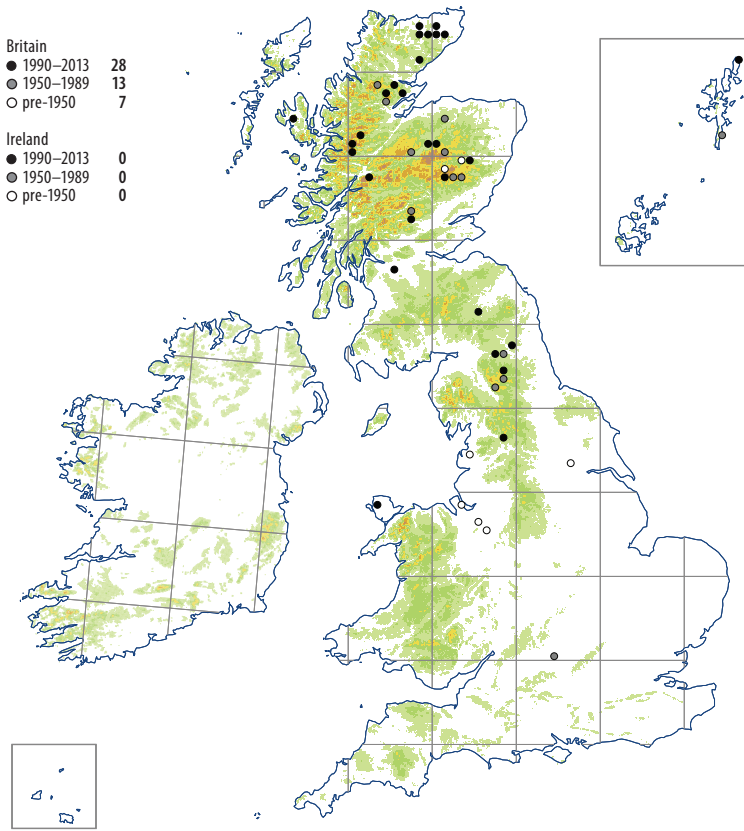


Sphagnum riparium



Most often, it is found on swampy ground and at the edge of pools, semi-submerged in water. It also occurs in springs, ditches, boggy grassland and streamside flushes. The places where it grows are generally unremarkable. Its commonest associate is *Juncus effusus*. At its outlying station in Wales, the habitat was more distinctive, with *Carex limosa*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Sphagnum fallax* and *S. palustre* (Jones *et al.*, 2006). Although it is sometimes found at higher altitudes, most records are from low and middle altitudes, especially in the Flow Country and in the hills above Abernethy Forest in eastern Scotland. It is tolerant of shade, growing for example as a quaking carpet under *Betula pubescens* near Hawick in south Scotland. Altitudinal range: 10–940 m.

Near Oxford it was found in 1961 and 1962 under sallow in a disused brick pit. This fleeting casual occurrence exemplifies the remarkable propensity of bryophytes to colonise new sites from long distances away (Jones, 1986).

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Common in northern Europe, becoming scattered and rare southwards to the Alps and N European plain. Northern Asia and northern N America, present in continental interiors, mainly the boreal zone, uncommon in the Arctic.

M.O. Hill

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, summer.

