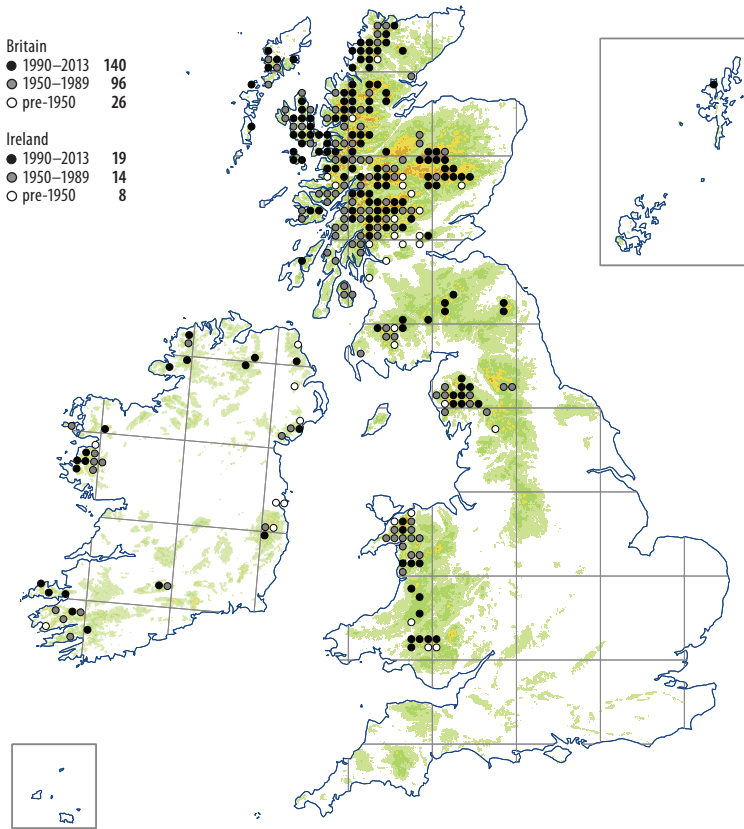


Andreaea alpina



A very distinctive rock-moss, normally deep blackish-red in colour, sometimes lighter reddish-brown, on wet to continuously dripping, acid to mildly basic rocks (including granite, basalt, schists, gneiss, quartzite, sandstone and gabbro) on ledges and cliffs, on boulders by upland lakes, in scree and on rocks in streams and flushes. It also occurs on periodically irrigated outcrops and boulders, and in snowbed vegetation, where it may form very large stands. It may occasionally grow directly on soil, especially in snowbeds. Associates include other species of *Andreaea* (notably *A. megistospora*, *A. mutabilis*, *A. rothii* and *A. rupestris*), *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *M. sphacelata*, *Grimmia donniana*, *Pogonatum urnigerum* and *Racomitrium* spp. Occurrences towards the lower end of its altitudinal range tend to be more frequent in Ireland and the west, and apparently in Norway it occurs most often

between sea level and a few hundred metres. Altitudinal range: 175–1150 m.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional to common, mature in summer.

Oceanic Boreal-montane. In Europe a Northern Atlantic species, known from Britain, Ireland, Norway and the Faeroes. Otherwise known in the Northern Hemisphere only from southernmost Greenland. However, it is a bipolar species, and has a much wider distribution in the Southern Hemisphere, where it occurs on many subantarctic and cold temperate islands, in South Africa, Lesotho, Tasmania and S America north to Colombia.

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