Andreaea rupestris

Britain
- ● 1990–2013   576
- ● 1950–1989   177
- ○ pre-1950   37

Ireland
- ● 1990–2013   69
- ● 1950–1989   23
- ○ pre-1950   3
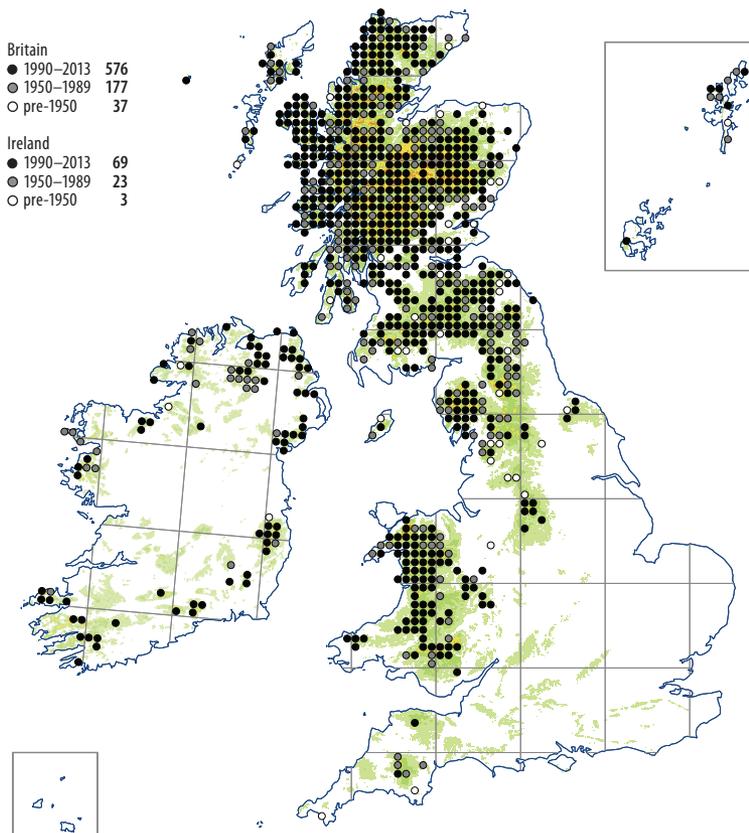
The most frequent of the nerveless rock-mosses, *Andreaea rupestris* forms dark brownish, greenish or blackish cushions on neutral to acid boulders, slabs, cliffs, scree and walls (including basalt, mica-schist, sandstone, granite and gabbro) that are periodically wet but often dry. It also occurs in snowbeds, but is very rare on lithosols. It is generally in drier sites than other *Andreaea* species, and absent from continuously wet sites that are the habitat of *A. nivalis* and *A. frigida*. It is often associated with the other members of the genus, and also with other saxicolous bryophytes, including *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Gymnomitrion* spp., *Grimmia* spp. (especially *G. trichophylla*) and *Racomitrium* spp. (especially *R. aciculare, R. fasciculare* and *R. heterostichum*). Found in both lowland and highland regions, it is less frequent than *A. rothii* in SW England, the South Pennines,

S Wales and Ireland, but more so in northern England and Scotland. Altitudinal range: 10–1340 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in spring and early summer.

The map shows all records of *A. rupestris* regardless of variety. Most material is clearly referable to var. *rupestris* but, throughout Britain and Ireland, plants occur with characteristics intermediate to var. *papillosa*. Although one or two collections (from N Wales and Cumbria) have been referred to var. *papillosa* by Murray (1988), they are atypical of the taxon, and no truly unequivocal material of this primarily Arctic variety is known from Britain or Ireland.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in Europe, common in northern and central parts but rare and sporadic to the south where it is much more confined to mountainous areas, reaching Portugal, Corsica and the Balkan mountains. Macaronesia. Caucasus, Georgia to Tajikistan, Himalaya, C, N and E Asia, Japan. Northern N America. It is likely that most, if not all, Southern Hemisphere records are erroneous.

B.M. Murray, rev. N.G. Hodgetts

- • <1%
- ● 1–10%
- ● >10%