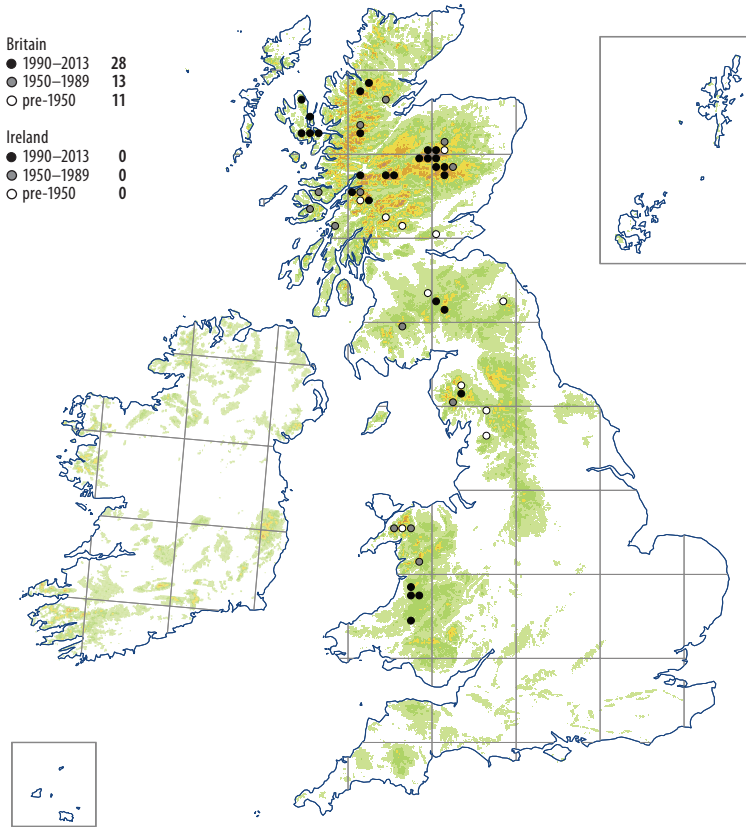


Andreaea mutabilis



A reddish rock-moss, occurring on dry to periodically or more continuously wet, more or less exposed, acid boulders, crags or scree (including granite, andesite, basalt, quartzite, gabbro and sandstone); more rarely it is found on thin soil over rock. In Skye it appears to be particularly characteristic of exposed rocks on mountain summits. It is also a component of snowbed vegetation on Ben Nevis, in the Cairngorms and elsewhere. It is most frequent on high ground but several collections are from low elevations. Associated species commonly include other species of *Andreaea*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Marsupella stableri*, *Diphyscium foliosum* and *Racomitrium sudeticum*; the list of associates increases considerably in snowbeds. Altitudinal range: 250–1150 m.

This moss, which was recognised in Britain only after the revision of the genus by Murray (1988), is probably still under-recorded owing to its similarity to *A. rupestris*.

Oceanic boreal-montane. In Europe known from a few localities in the Faeroes, France and Spain (Pyrenees). There is also a single collection from N America (British Columbia), and another from Taiwan. It is a bipolar species, and is widespread in the Southern Hemisphere (but not in Antarctica).

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

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer.

