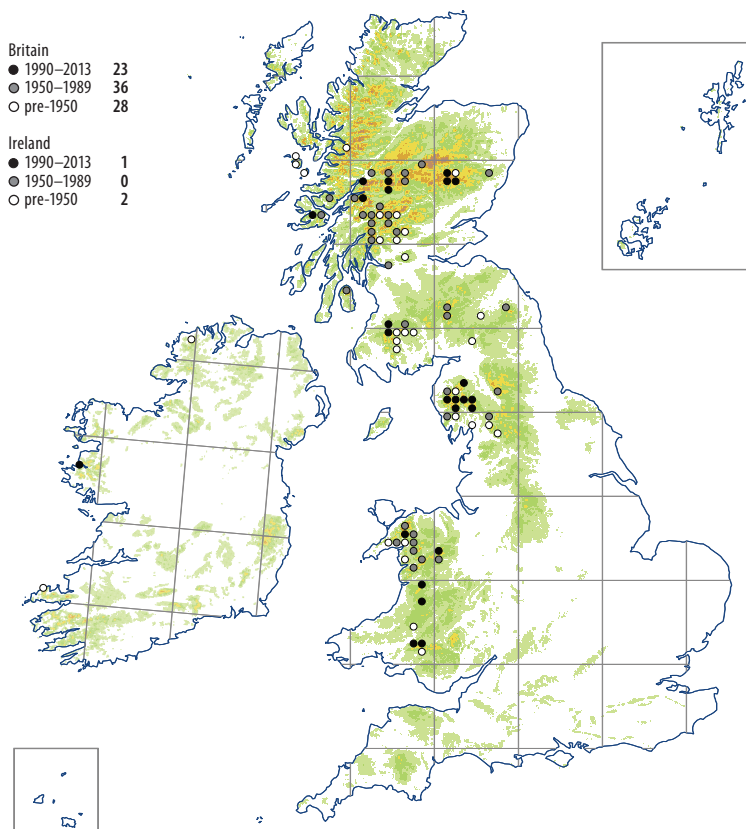


# Oedipodium griffithianum



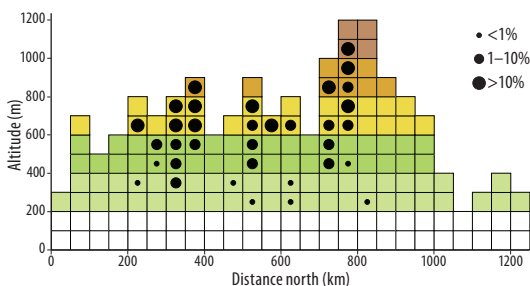
This very distinctive moss grows in crevices, recesses and on ledges of rocks in the uplands, usually on a layer of moist gritty humus or peaty soil. Typical habitats are boulder fields and scree, broken crags, and the sides and floors of gullies, often with a northerly or easterly aspect. In recesses it is often found without associates, but on more open ledges it has been recorded with *Pohlia flexuosa*, *P. ludwigii* and *Rhabdoweisia crispata*. On basic sandstone in S Wales associates include *Frullania tamarisci*, *Amphidium mougeotii* and *Gymnostomum aeruginosum* (Bosanquet *et al.*, 2005). Individual populations are often small and scattered, surprisingly so in view of its unremarkable habitat. Altitudinal range: 295–1210 m.

In view of its restriction to montane sites, its apparent absence from NW Scotland is difficult to explain. At some

sites, such as the summit of Errigal mountain in Donegal, it has apparently been lost because of trampling and degradation of the habitat by large numbers of visitors, and overall there has been a slight declining trend in the records, though the records show large fluctuations, perhaps reflecting recorder activity.

Autoicous or synoicous. Capsules are occasional, mature in summer. Vegetative reproduction occurs by multicellular discoid gemmae at the shoot apices.

Oceanic Boreal-montane. Norway, Sweden, and NW Finland, mainly in the mountains. Russian Far East (Primorsky Territory), China (Inner Mongolia, Khingan Mountains and Sichuan), Japan. North-western N America (Alaska to Washington), Newfoundland, Greenland. A bipolar species, also in southern S America and the Falkland Islands.



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