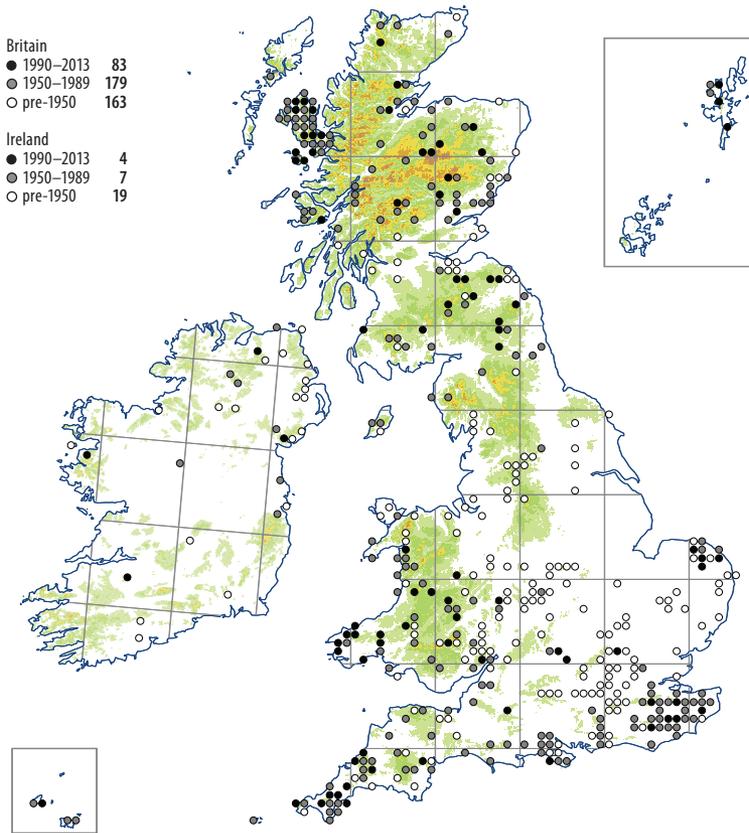


Pogonatum nanum



A colonist of bare acid substrates on gravelly, sandy and loamy soils and on crumbling rocks in a wide variety of habitats. In some coastal areas it is found on bare or broken ground and the edges of paths on slopes and cliff tops; inland it occurs on roadside and pathside banks, in and near old quarries and pits, on the banks of streams and ditches, on bare ground on heaths and moors, along the edges of woodland rides and as a colonist of mine spoil. In western Scotland it is particularly characteristic of mineral soil on outcrops of igneous rocks, and it occurs with remarkable frequency on mountain ridges on Rum. Habitats are open and well illuminated, less often in light shade. It can grow in extensive almost pure stands, but more often as scattered stems amongst other pioneer species including *Pogonatum aloides*. Other frequent associates are *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Campylopus*

introflexus and *Dicranella heteromalla*. Altitudinal range: 0–750 m.

It appears to have undergone a catastrophic decline in lowland England. Certainly the disappearance of old pits, unsealed roads, open woodland rides and open heathland are factors, but it was probably over-recorded in the past. Many old records are literature reports and may have been based on vegetative plants, which cannot be identified reliably, or on small forms of *P. aloides*. In northern and western areas it is sporadic in occurrence and often absent from apparently suitable habitats, perhaps because of poor dispersal ability. It is less abundant on the Isle of Skye than the map suggests, being described as 'local, rarely present in any quantity' by Birks & Birks (1974).

Diocious; capsules are common (and necessary for reliable identification), mature in winter and spring.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe except in calcareous regions, north to Iceland and C Scandinavia, east to European Russia and Georgia, and with scattered localities in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey.

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