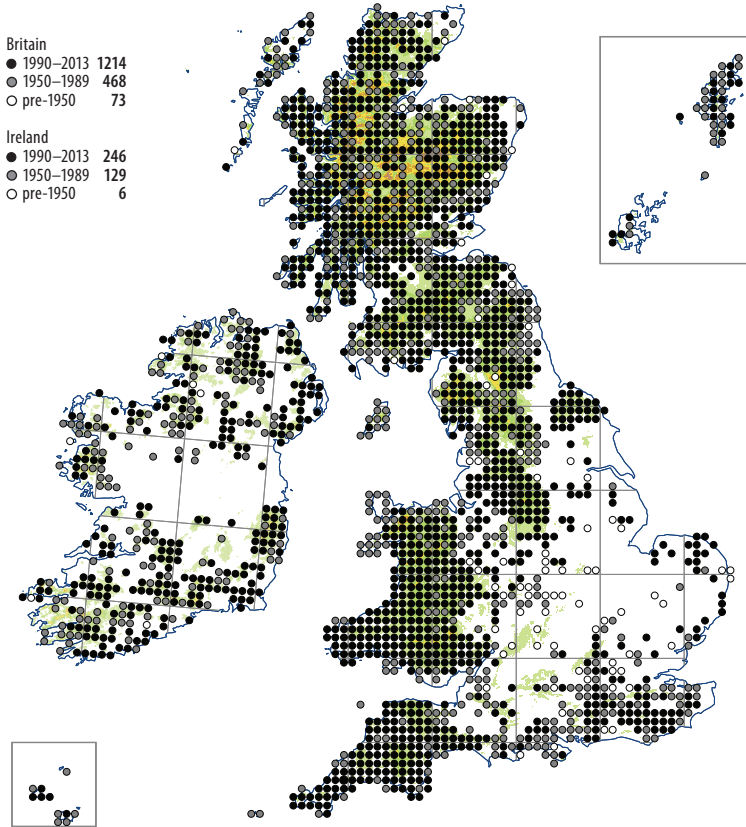


Pogonatum aloides



A strictly calcifuge moss of bare substrates that remain relatively stable following disturbance, on loam, clay and peaty-gravelly soils, sometimes on stabilised sand and crumbling sandstone. It is a typical pioneer species on vertical soil banks in woodland, eroding banks by streams, on shady river and estuary banks, on slumps and the banks of gullies in the uplands, as well as in old quarries and pits, on old mine spoil and colliery tips, and by ditches and forestry tracks, often forming extensive colonies. In acid woodland it is often found on soil on the root plates of fallen trees. It is common in open habitats, but is somewhat shade-tolerant, occurring not just in woodland but below overhangs on the banks of moorland streams. Associates include *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *D. rufescens* and *Ditrichum heteromallum*. In the Pennines its mats of

protonema are sometimes mixed with *Discelium nudum*.
 Altitudinal range: 0–800 m.

Although very common in the uplands, the species has declined in C and E England from the loss of suitably open acid substrates, although many of these losses are of long-standing.

Dioicous; capsules are common, often abundant, mature in winter and spring.

Pogonatum aloides var. *minimum* is not currently recognised as distinct in Britain and Ireland; it may represent a hybrid between *P. aloides* and *P. nanum*, often being found at sites where both of these species occur (Holyoak, 2012).

European Boreo-temperate. In Europe from C Norway and the Baltic States southwards, east to Ukraine and Caucasus, scattered in the Mediterranean region, but reaching Sicily and Crete. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Near East, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

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