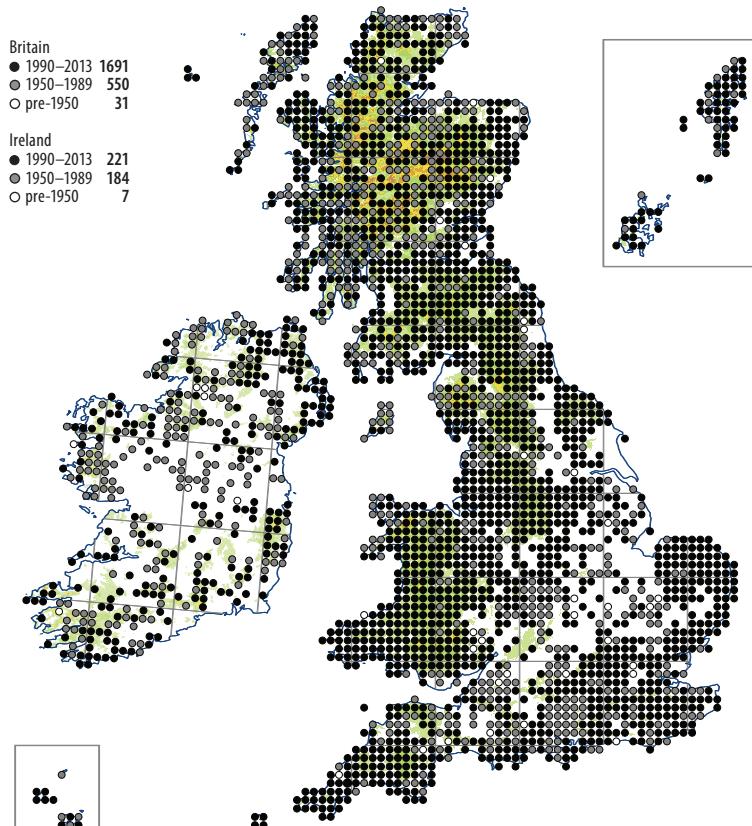


Polytrichum juniperinum



A species of well-drained acid substrates in a wide range of open habitats. It sometimes occurs with *Polytrichum piliferum*, but is able to grow in more closed vegetation and is less restricted to shallow infertile soils. It occurs on heathland (sometimes frequent following burning), bare ground in acid grassland, soil on rock ledges and on rocky outcrops, banks and cuttings by roads and tracks, bare ground in open woodland, coastal fixed dunes, old shingle beaches, cliff tops and earthy walls. It occurs in deep humus over limestone outcrops and other calcareous rocks, and is a frequent colonist of old quarries and mine spoil. It is rather rare in other ruderal habitats, such as broken tarmac, the edges of lanes and tracks, ancient lawns and disused railways. Typically a pioneer of dry soils, it often grows with *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum*

jutlandicum, *Pleurozium schreberi* and *Cladonia* species. Altitudinal range: 0–1170 m.

Recent recording has filled many gaps in its mapped distribution, and it is rare or absent only in the more intensively cultivated lowlands.

Dioicus; capsules are occasional to frequent, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Throughout Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, but less common in the Mediterranean lowlands and in calcareous regions. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey. Widespread across temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, south to Caucasus, the Himalaya and China; Hawaii. Temperate parts of the Southern Hemisphere, south to Antarctica; St Helena. In the tropics it occurs in the mountains of C and S America, Galapagos and New Guinea.

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