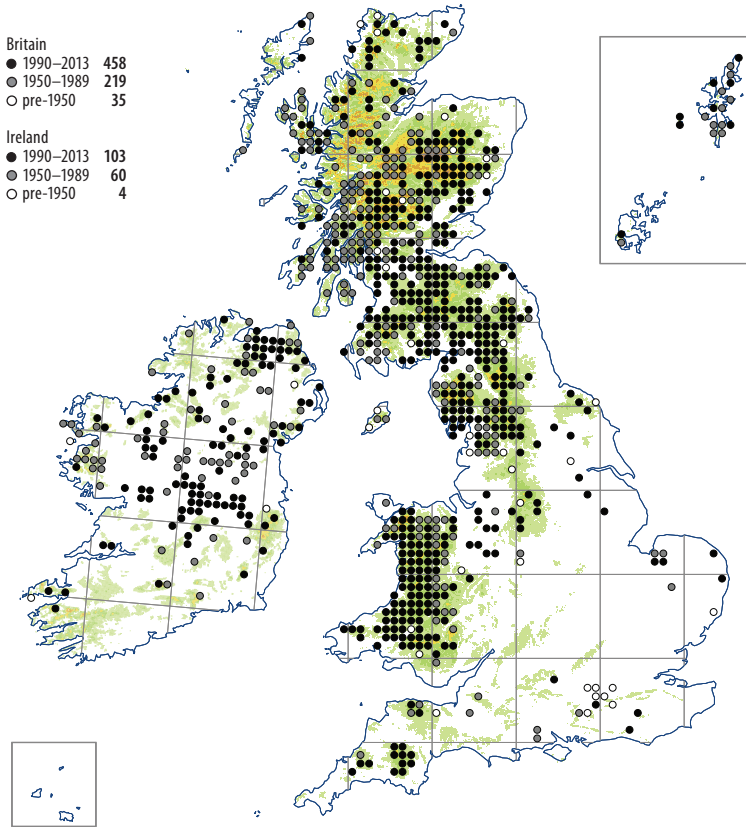


Polytrichum strictum



Typically forming dense patches or hummocks, often as almost pure stands or mixed with *Sphagnum*, less often *Leucobryum*, in raised and blanket bogs and wet heaths, more rarely in damp peaty woodlands, invariably on acid substrates. Associated *Sphagnum* species include *S. capillifolium*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. papillosum*. It is occasionally found on bare, eroding peat and in old peat-cuttings with *Campylopus introflexus*, and in drier sites on peat among boulders. Altitudinal range: 0–990 m.

Diocious; capsules are occasional, mature in summer. Observations and experiments by Miles & Longton (1990) in N Wales failed to find any evidence of spore germination in the field. New shoots were formed by regeneration from shoot fragments, from old shoots and from rhizoid 'wicks'.

Polytrichum strictum is not always clearly distinct from *P. juniperinum* and its status is uncertain pending further study. Tall plants are sometimes found that resemble *P. strictum* but lack the characteristic white tomentum. There may therefore be some inconsistencies in recording, but with little overall impact on the accuracy of the map.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in N and C Europe where peaty habitats prevail, but largely absent in the Mediterranean region, though recorded southwards to Sicily. Reported from Algeria, Turkey. Widespread across the Northern Hemisphere, especially in Arctic and boreal zones. Southernmost S America, South Georgia, Antarctica.

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