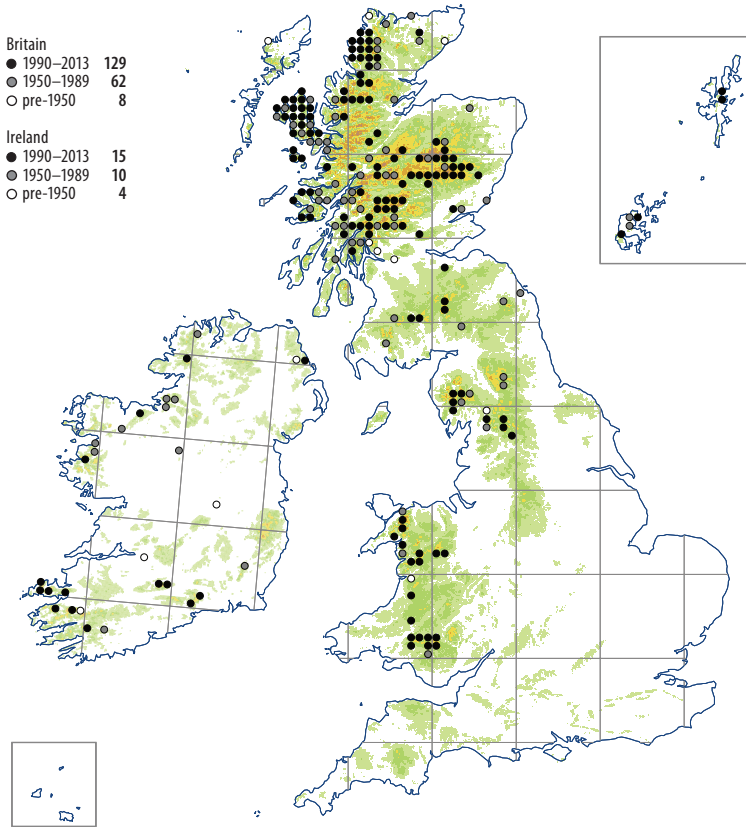


Schistidium strictum



This is much the commonest of the three papillose *Schistidium* species in Britain. It forms tight orange-tinged tufts or more straggling patches on basic igneous and siliceous rocks in the uplands. *S. strictum* grows both on cliffs, with associates such as *Anoetangium aestivum*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Grimmia torquata* and *Neckera crispa*, and on boulders, alongside *Frullania tamarisci*, *Blindia acuta*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Encalypta ciliata* and *Tortella bambergeri*. There are also records from stones in base-rich flushes and from rocks used to build stone walls. British and Irish colonies are in open situations, whereas Blom (1996) reports *S. strictum* as being shade-tolerant and typical of humid forests in Norway. Altitudinal range: 10–1000 m.

There are two problems that may have led to erroneous records of *S. strictum*. In Scotland there are plants that closely resemble *S. strictum* but have longer capsules than is typical; these were assigned to *S. strictum* but may be forms of *S. papillosum*. In both Scotland and Wales, very small, tight cushions of *Schistidium* with the orange colour of *S. strictum* but with no apparent lamina papillae occur; these were recorded as *S. apocarpum* but may be atypical *S. strictum*.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Restricted in Europe to western Norway, Iceland, the Faeroes, Spain and Madeira. Locally frequent in western N America.

S.D.S. Bosanquet

Autoicous. Capsules are common, mature January to February.

