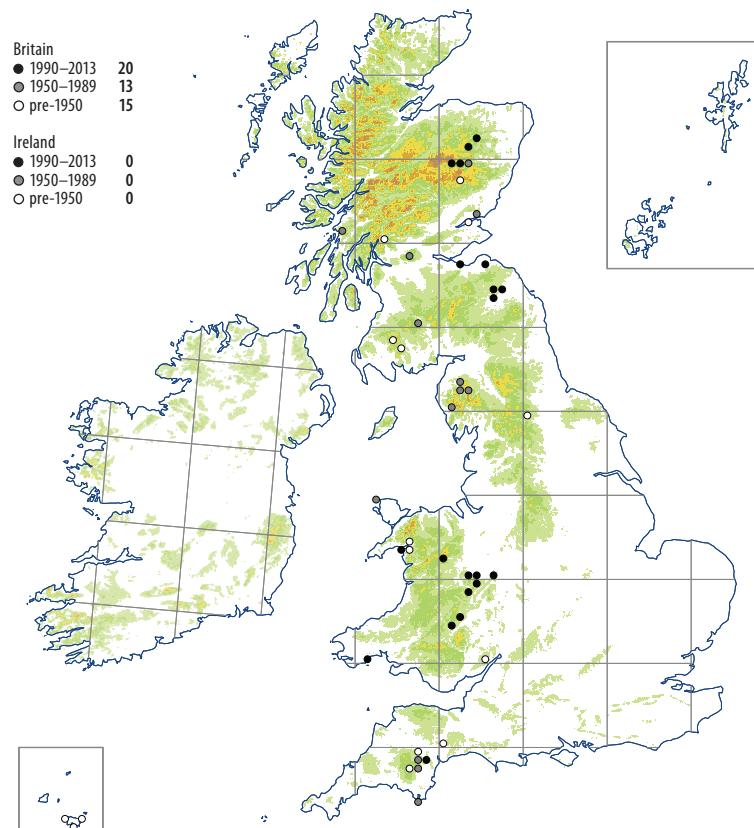


Grimmia montana



This species forms dark green cushions or occasionally tufts on hard dry rock, from acid to ultrabasic including granite, sandstone, basalt, serpentine, andesite and peridotite. It occurs mostly in exposed sunny situations with a southern aspect, on the surface of rocks or in cracks and crevices. It is particularly characteristic of rocky ridges near to and on hilltops at moderate altitudes, but there are also records from coastal localities close to sea level. Associated species in the extreme environments that it inhabits are few, but occasionally include *Grimmia laevigata*. Altitudinal range: 5–545 m.

In the 1991–1994 Atlas *G. montana* was thought to be in decline in lowland Britain, a trend reflected in other parts of Europe, perhaps due to air pollution (Dierßen, 2001). However, there have been several new records recently,

particularly from the Precambrian rocks of the Long Mynd in Shropshire, and at least one of the apparently lost populations in N Wales has been relocated. The records show a slight upward trend since 1990.

Dioicous, occasionally monoicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring.

In Britain this species has been confused with other closely related taxa, and some collections named as *G. alpestris* belong to *G. montana*. Similarly, plants named *G. ungeri* Jur. have also been re-determined as *G. montana* (Long, 2008).

Circumpolar Temperate. In Europe chiefly in the mountains and rare in the lowlands, from Fennoscandia throughout much of Europe, south to the Iberian Peninsula and the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia; N Africa (Algeria, Morocco). Turkey, C Asia (Himalaya), Siberia. N America south to Mexico. E Africa (Tanzania). Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

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