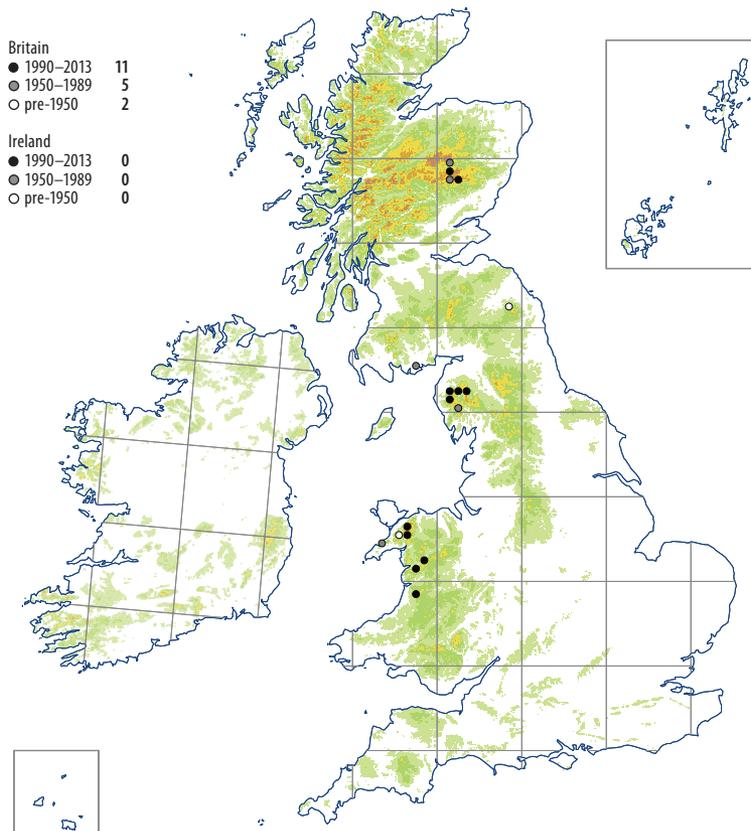


## Grimmia elongata

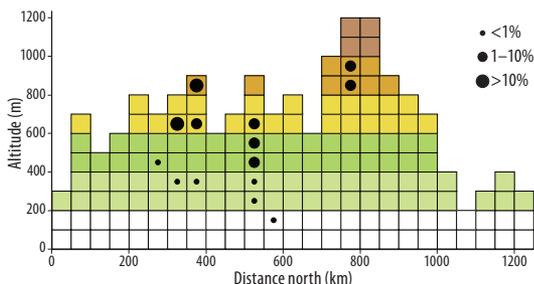


This species forms small dark green to reddish-brown cushions on acid rock at high altitudes disposed to harsh environmental conditions. It favours sunny aspects mostly within the southern compass arc, growing directly on bedrock or in soil-filled crevices. It is found on periodically irrigated or dry rock, sometimes on or near mountain summits but also in stable block scree, as well as on shaly outcrops in gullies and glens, and on hillsides. In the English Lake District it is particularly characteristic of Skiddaw slate and in Wales it occurs on igneous rocks comprising rhyolite and andesite. It is also frequently found on rocks rich in heavy metals, often growing with *Grimmia donniana*. Other associates include *Andreaea rothii* subsp. *falcata*, *A. rupestris*, *Grimmia* spp., *Racomitrium heterostichum* s.l., *R. sudeticum* and occasionally *Gymnomitrium obtusum*. Altitudinal range: 170–900 m.

The plant was much overlooked in the second half of the 20th century and was thought to be in decline. However recent surveys have revealed substantial, though localised, populations in both England and Wales. In the Lake District, one large population comprising many hundreds of cushions occurs along the entire length of the Whiteside/Grisedale Pike ridge.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Widely distributed in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. It is not threatened in Europe as a whole, where it is chiefly a plant of the Alpine belt in N and C Europe east to the Russian Urals, very rare further south (Pyrenees) and rare in lowland countries such as Belgium and Britain. Reported from the Azores, Turkey, Asia (India, Nepal, China, Japan), N, C and S America, Hawaii, S and E Africa and Réunion.



A.J.E. Smith, rev. R.D. Porley