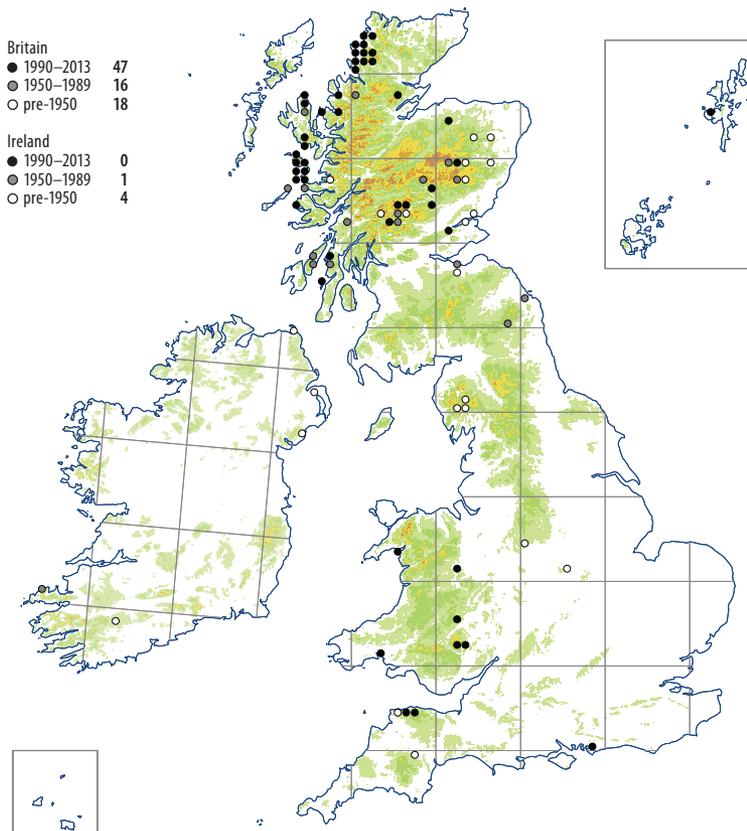


Grimmia longirostris

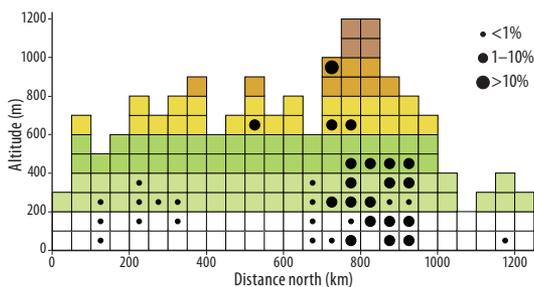


A cushion-forming moss, usually growing in small quantity, on dry acid to ultrabasic rocks including granite, sandstone, gneiss, calcareous schist, dolerite and peridotite. It occupies a range of aspects, although predominantly south-facing, and whilst normally found in well-lit exposed situations, it also grows in light shade. It occurs on cliffs and crags, on hillside and hilltop rocks and boulders, in scree, by rivers and on rocks by lakes; it is a particularly characteristic species of the assemblage of bryophytes found on gneiss boulders on loch margins in Sutherland. In NW Scotland it descends to sea level, and has been recorded on basic outcrops in a sand dune system on the island of Coll. Exceptionally, there is a modern record from clay roof tiles at a low altitude in Sussex. It is sometimes associated with other *Grimmia* species, including *G. decipiens*, *G. funalis*, *G. muehlenbeckii* and *G. trichophylla*. Altitudinal range: 10–1150 m.

In the 1991–1994 Atlas it was suggested that *G. longirostris* was a declining species. It had not been seen in Ireland since 1951 until refound in 2014 (too late to be mapped), and with the loss of some populations in England and an apparent decline in the Grampian Mountains of Scotland, there is clearly some support for this statement. However, these losses have been offset by the refining of some old records and the discovery of new populations in recent years. Indeed records since 1990 show an increasing trend.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in winter.

It has been confused with *G. ovalis* and a few errors may remain in the older records, but most errors resulting from this source of confusion have been eliminated. A few recent records may also be based on confusion with *G. muehlenbeckii*.



Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Found on all continents, and particularly widespread in the Northern Hemisphere in most mountain ranges. In Europe apparently frequent only in Fennoscandia but ranging south to the Mediterranean region, where it is rare. Turkey, and widespread in Asia. In the Americas from Alaska south to Argentina. Mountains of E Africa. Australia, New Zealand and a single collection from Antarctica.

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