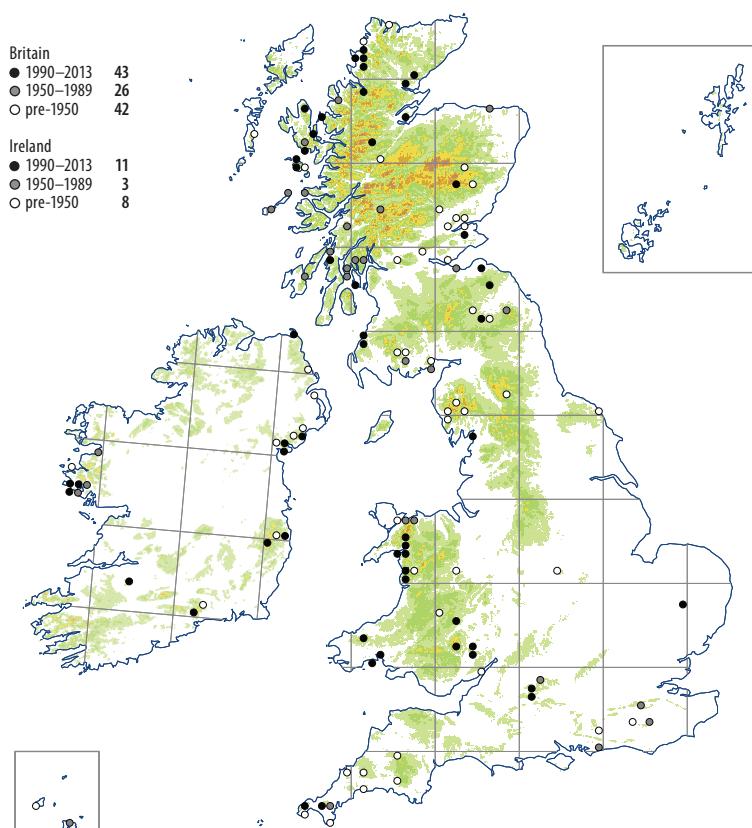


Grimmia decipiens



This robust species forms readily disintegrating tufts or cushions on a range of acid to base-rich rocks including granite, sandstone, slate, basalt, gabbro, dolerite and ultrabasic rocks such as peridotite. It is indifferent to aspect and occupies sloping, vertical or level surfaces, mostly on dry rock but occasionally on irrigated or wet rocks, exposed or partially shaded. It grows on crags, in scree and boulder fields, on glacial erratics and Sarsen stones, on boulders in woodland and by lochs, on sea cliffs, dry-stone walls, on mortar of old bridges, on church walls and stone roof tiles. It is tolerant of some pollution. Its wide ecological niche is reflected in its many associates, including *Andreaea rupestris*, *Grimmia donniana*, *G. elatior* (rare), *G. funalis*, *G. montana*, *G. ramondii*, *G. trichophylla*, *Hedwigia stellata*, *H. integrifolia*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Racomitrium heterostichum* and *Ulota hutchinsiae*. Altitudinal range: 10–550 m.

Whilst there have been some local losses, for example in Cornwall, there have also been many recent records. Evidence of an overall decline in Britain or Ireland is slim and its occurrence is probably at least stable. Statistically there has been an upward trend in records since the mid 1980s, with the discovery of a number of new sites.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in spring.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Widespread in Europe from Scandinavia south to the Mediterranean region and east to Ukraine and European Turkey. Macaronesia. N Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). Armenia. Its wider distribution is uncertain because of taxonomic disagreements. Maier (2010) treats *G. jacutica* Ignatova, Bednarek-Ochyra, O.M. Afonina & J. Muñoz from Siberia and the Russian Far East as synonymous with *G. decipiens* and likewise *G. arcuatifolia* Kindb. and *G. leibergii* Paris from western N America. It is accepted for China by Tong *et al.* (2003).

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