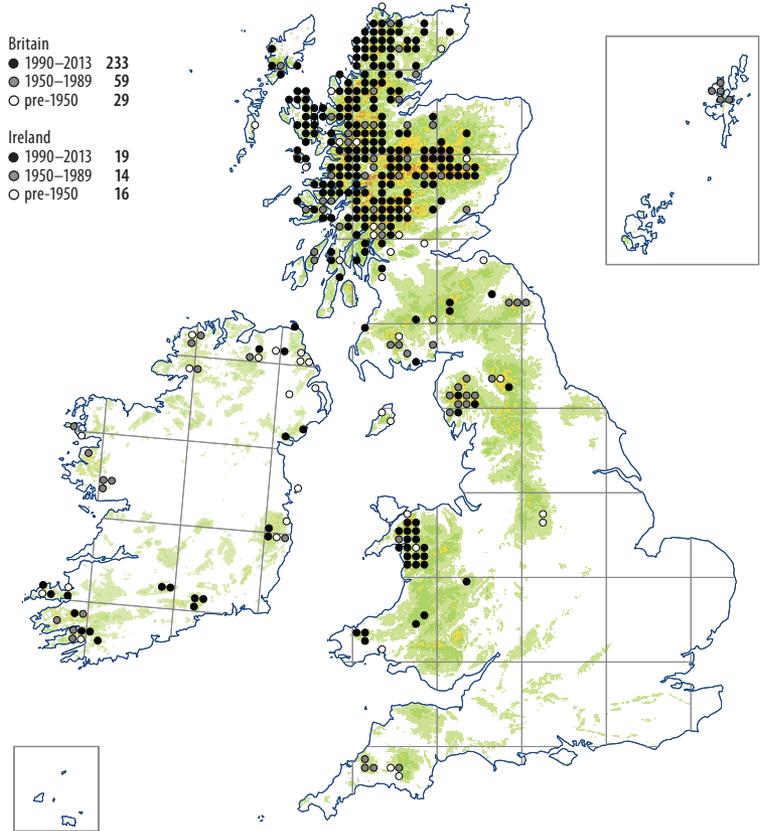


Grimmia ramondii

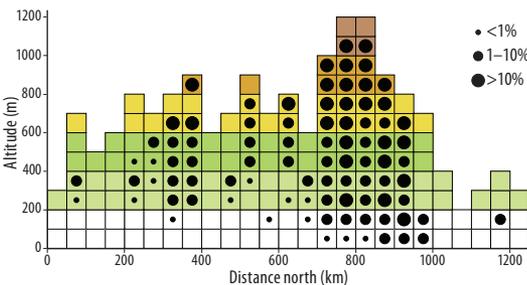


This is a relatively large species forming loose tufts on moist, acid to mildly basic rock in the hilly parts of Britain and Ireland. It occurs on a range of igneous rocks including granite, dolerite, gabbro, gneiss and lavas, in open to shaded sites, typically with north- or east-facing aspects or with some degree of shelter. Usually it is attached directly to the rock surface, but sometimes it grows on thin skeletal soil overlying the rock. It is most often found on rocks by streams and rivers, typically with *Racomitrium aciculare* and *R. aquaticum*, and on lake-side boulders, often where it is periodically irrigated by water, together with *Grimmia lisa*. Although it rarely occurs far from water, it also grows sometimes on cliffs, in boulder scree and on outcrops at or near mountain summits with a range of species including *G. decipiens*, *Racomitrium affine* and *R. heterostichum*. On more basic outcrops, particularly in NW Scotland, it may be

associated with *Antitrichia curtispindula* and *Pterogonium gracile*. Altitudinal range: 15–1100 m.

The current map suggests that *G. ramondii* may be declining, particularly in some parts of England. It may have disappeared completely from SW England, where bryophytes of base-poor rock have generally shown a marked decline, possibly due to atmospheric pollution or other changes in air quality (Holyoak, 2012). However, the records overall have shown a marked upward trend since 1990, probably because of the large number of new records that have been made in Scotland and Ireland. In the N Pennines and the Lake District the paucity of recent records may be due to low levels of recording there.

Diocious; capsules are rare, mature in spring.



European Boreal-montane. In Europe occurring widely throughout the continent in hilly terrain. In the southern countries it is confined to the high mountains (south to Corsica, Sardinia and Greece), whereas in Scandinavia it is characteristic of the agricultural lowlands. Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Madeira). Turkey. Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan. Elsewhere discontinuously circumpolar in Japan, western N America, and Greenland.

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