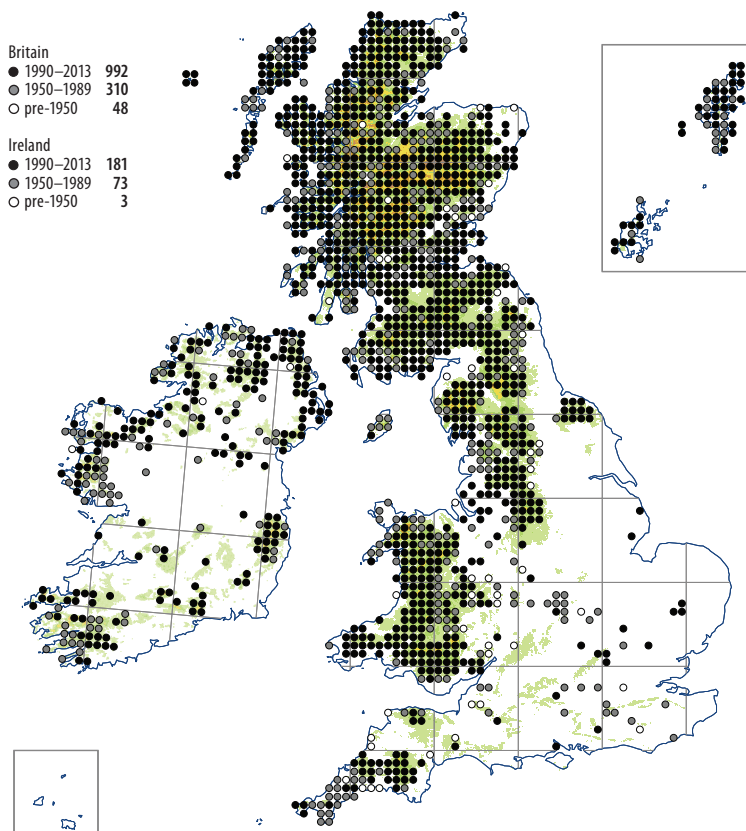


Racomitrium fasciculare



A very characteristic species of dry or moist acid rock surfaces, forming low, lax, yellow-green or brownish to olivaceous mats of richly branched shoots. It grows on a wide range of rock types, extending to mildly basic igneous rocks, but not on limestones. It is usually found on horizontal or slightly inclined surfaces, growing in boulder fields and scree, as well as on isolated rocks on hillsides, moorland and stream banks, and below cliffs; it is also common in old quarries and on walls, occasionally on roof slates and tiles. Common associates include *Andreaea rupestris*, other species of *Racomitrium*, especially *R. affine* and *R. heterostichum*, and in some areas *Hedwigia stellata*. It is not shade-tolerant and is usually found in the open or in light woodland. Although most common in upland and montane areas, it is occasionally found in lowland regions that lack suitable rock outcrops, growing on roof tiles, stone

walls and flagstones, especially in churchyards. Altitudinal range: 0–1150 m.

Like *R. aciculare*, this moss has been well recorded in recent decades and its mapped distribution is largely complete. It nicely circumscribes the upland regions of Britain and Ireland.

Diocious; capsules are frequent, mature in late spring, occasionally later.

European Boreo-temperate. W and N Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, and the mountains of C Europe, south to Spain and Bulgaria, east to the Carpathian and Ural mountains. Azores, Madeira. Rare in northern and eastern Russia. Japan. N America south to Colorado. Tahiti.

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