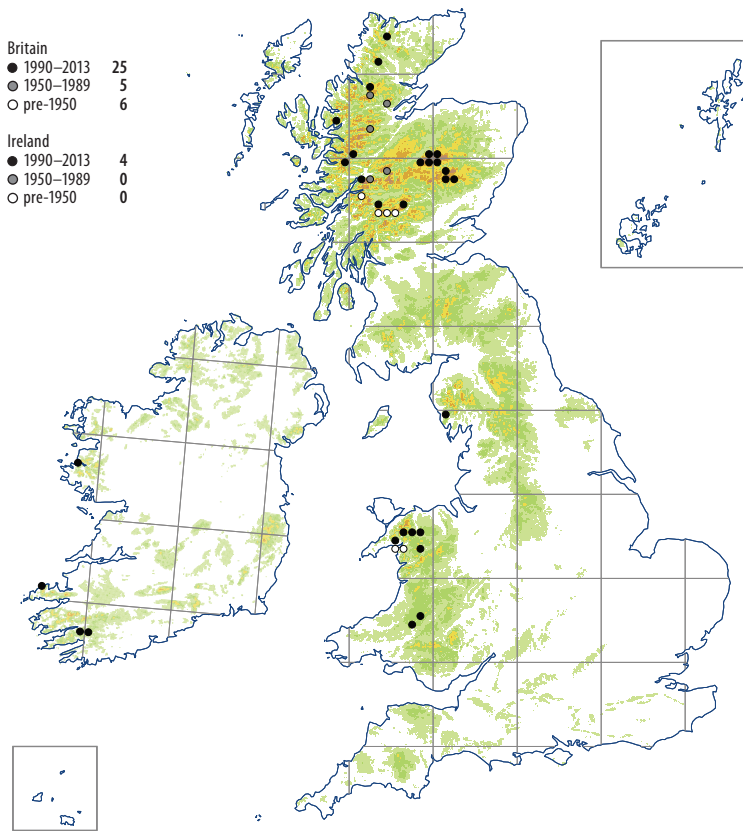


Racomitrium macounii subsp. alpinum



This is a rupestral moss of habitats that are at least periodically irrigated and it has two quite distinct habitats. South of Scotland, it occurs as cushions, often silt-filled, on rocks in the inundation zone of streams and rivers where it grows with *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Gymnomitrium obtusum*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Scapania subalpina*, *Andreaea rupestris*, *Grimmia ramondii*, *Kiaeria blyttii*, *Pohlia drummondii*, *Racomitrium aciculare*, *R. aquaticum*, *R. ellipticum*, *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* and *Trichostomum tenuirostre*. In Scotland, most records come from the high mountains where it forms straggling patches on periodically irrigated slabby rocks with a wide range of associates depending on the geology, but including *Saxifraga nivalis*, *Anomobryum julaceum*, *Blindia acuta*, *Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens*, *Grimmia funalis*, *G. unicolor* and *Pseudoleskea patens* on more base-rich rocks, and on poorer rocks

Epilobium anagallidifolium, *Gnaphalium supinum*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Scapania uliginosa*, *S. undulata*, *Tritomaria quinquentata*, *Andreaea alpina*, *Dichodontium pellucidum*, *Hypnum callichroum* and *Sciuro-hypnum glaciale*. Altitudinal range: 40–1180 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional.

Racomitrium macounii was recognised as a segregate of the *R. heterostichum* complex by Frisvoll (1988). Older records mapped here are based on a revision of herbarium material (Blockeel, 1991), and there are thought to be few or no mapped errors. British and Irish plants belong to subsp. *alpinum*, which has a wider distribution than subsp. *macounii*.

European Boreal-montane. Including subsp. *alpinum* (E. Lawton) Frisvoll, *R. macounii* is widespread in mountainous regions of Europe, north to Iceland and N Norway, south to Portugal, Corsica and Bulgaria. NE Turkey, Caucasus. N Japan. Western N America, Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

