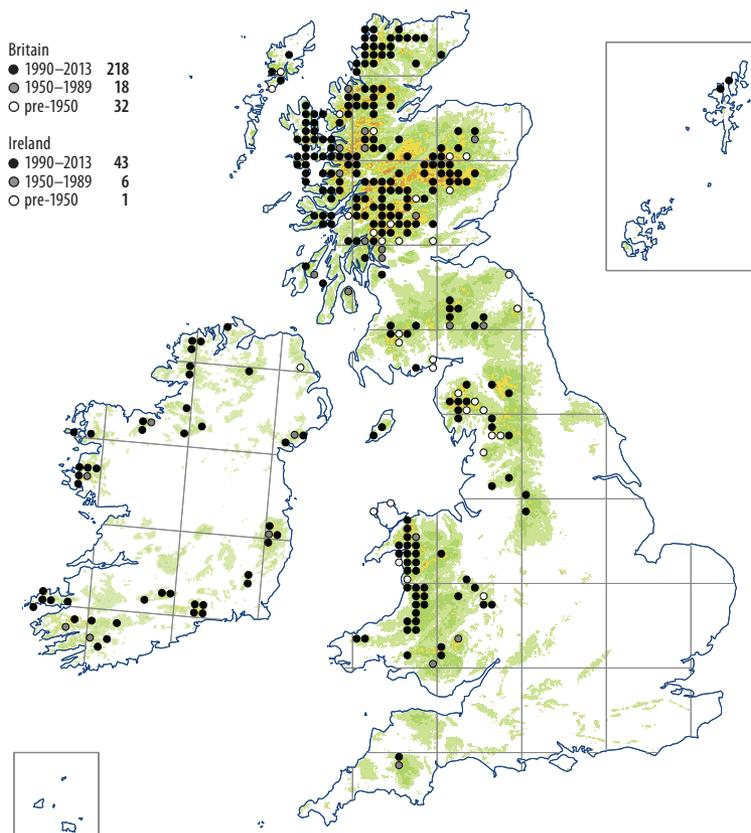


Racomitrium sudeticum



A montane species occurring on a wide range of dry or intermittently moist acid to mildly basic rocks, usually in exposed places; it grows on hard rock surfaces, often plentifully, in many upland habitats, including summit fell-fields, boulder fields, scree, crags, tors and lakeside rocks. Its associates include *Gymnomitrium obtusum*, *Andreaea rupestris*, *A. rothii*, *Racomitrium fasciculare*, *R. heterostichum* and *R. lanuginosum*, as well as less common montane species such as *Dicranoweisia crispula*. It occurs occasionally on soil, especially in areas of late snow-lie. Some records are from dry-stone walls, and it has been recorded from mortared gritstone walls in the South Pennines. Altitudinal range: 15–1340 m.

At the time of the 1991–1994 Atlas, the taxonomy of *R. sudeticum* had only recently been clarified and its known

distribution was very incomplete. The overall extent of its distribution is now clear, though doubtless many gaps remain to be filled.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional to frequent.

Although *R. sudeticum* was recognised as a subspecies of *R. heterostichum* by Dixon (1924), it was not recorded with any consistency until the revision of the *R. heterostichum* complex by Frisvoll (1988). Older records are not mapped unless they have been confirmed from herbarium specimens, and it is more frequent in montane regions than the map implies. Lax forms may resemble *R. affine* and there may be some recording errors.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Common in N Europe, reaching Svalbard and Jan Mayen, and south in the mountains to the Pyrenees, Corsica and Bulgaria. Turkey. A very widely distributed bipolar species, in the Northern Hemisphere south to the Himalayas in Asia and northern California in N America. In the Southern Hemisphere in southern S America, SE Australia and Antarctica.

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