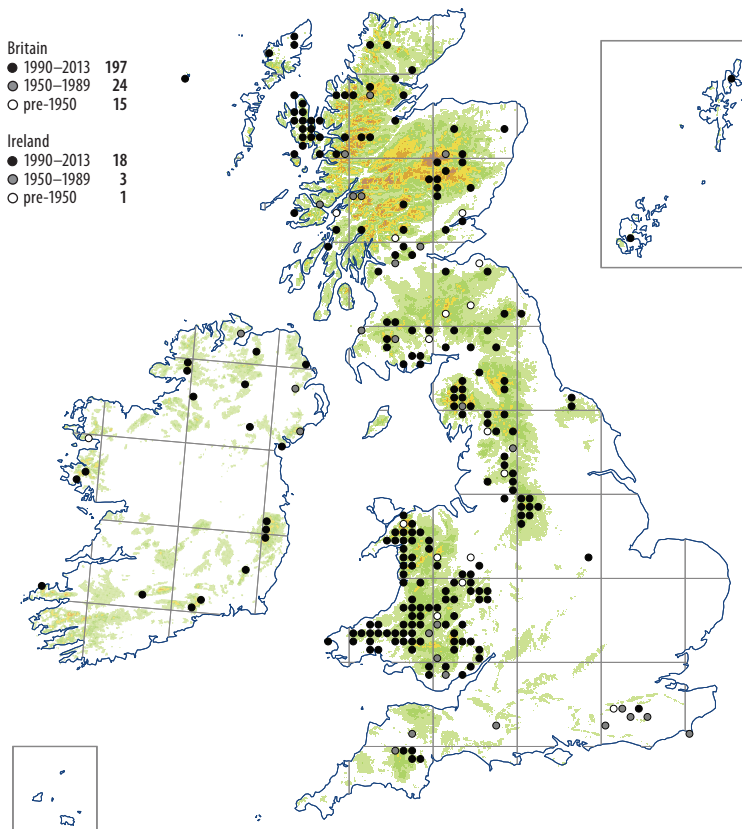


Racomitrium affine



Like *Racomitrium heterostichum* this species grows on a wide range of acid to mildly basic rocks. Although the two species sometimes occur together, *R. affine* is less common at higher altitudes and is often found in sheltered places on outcrops and boulders in light woodland and on the banks of streams. It extends to moister habitats on periodically irrigated rock faces, where *R. aquaticum* has been recorded as an associate. However it may also occur on exposed rocks on hill summits, upland cliffs and moorland. Man-made habitats include boulders by reservoirs, quarries, wall tops, roof tiles and occasionally gravestones. It normally grows on hard rock surfaces but has been recorded from turf over coastal shingle. Altitudinal range: 5–900 m.

Diocious; capsules are occasional, mature in spring.

Racomitrium affine is defined here in the narrow sense of Frisvoll's (1988) revision, and not according to the concept in Smith (1978). In the older literature it was often called *R. sudeticum*. The separation of *R. affine* from *R. heterostichum* is sometimes difficult and the mapped distribution may contain some inaccuracies. It is certainly incomplete, partly because of the relatively recent recognition of the species as currently understood, and partly because accurate identification generally requires microscopic examination. Older records are mapped only if confirmed from herbarium specimens.

European Temperate. Faeroes, southern and western Fennoscandia, NW Russia, mountains of C Europe, rarely in southern Europe. Madeira, Turkey, Caucasus. Eastern and western N America.

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