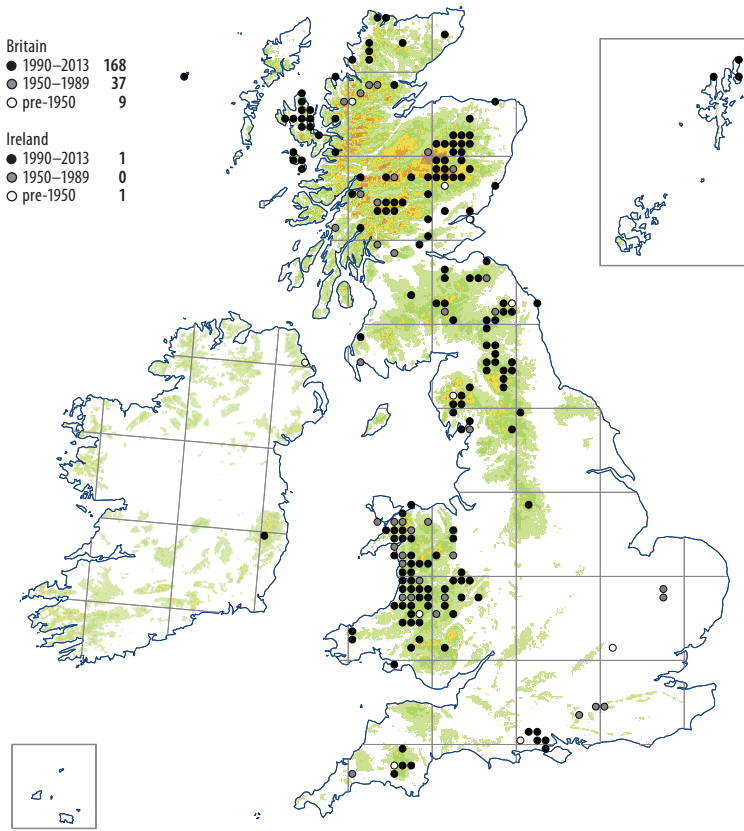


Racomitrium elongatum



Closely related to *Racomitrium ericoides* and sometimes growing with it, but favouring drier, warmer and more exposed sites. It occurs on open, well-drained rock ledges, on sandy and gravelly soil and shingle, especially by streams, and in thin turf and bare patches among heather on heathland. It is particularly frequent by gravelly tracksides and on spoil and broken ground in old pits and quarries. *Oligotrichum hercynicum* is a frequent associate in the uplands. Some of its sites are on limestone in open turf over rocks and on stony banks, and it is often present in old mine workings, especially in old lead mines. It is also recorded from coastal sand dunes. Altitudinal range: 0–1090 m.

Racomitrium elongatum is a segregate of the *R. canescens* group and was described by Frisvoll (1983). Hill (1984) provided a partial revision of herbarium material and many new records have accumulated subsequently, but its detailed distribution is still incomplete.

Suboceanic Boreo-temperate. Widespread in W and C Europe, north to Iceland, the Faeroes and N Norway, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region, east to the Caucasus and Black Sea region. Azores, Madeira, Turkey, N Russia and Russian Far East. N America, especially in the west from SE Alaska to California, more scattered in the east; Greenland.

Diocious; capsules have not been found in Britain and Ireland.

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