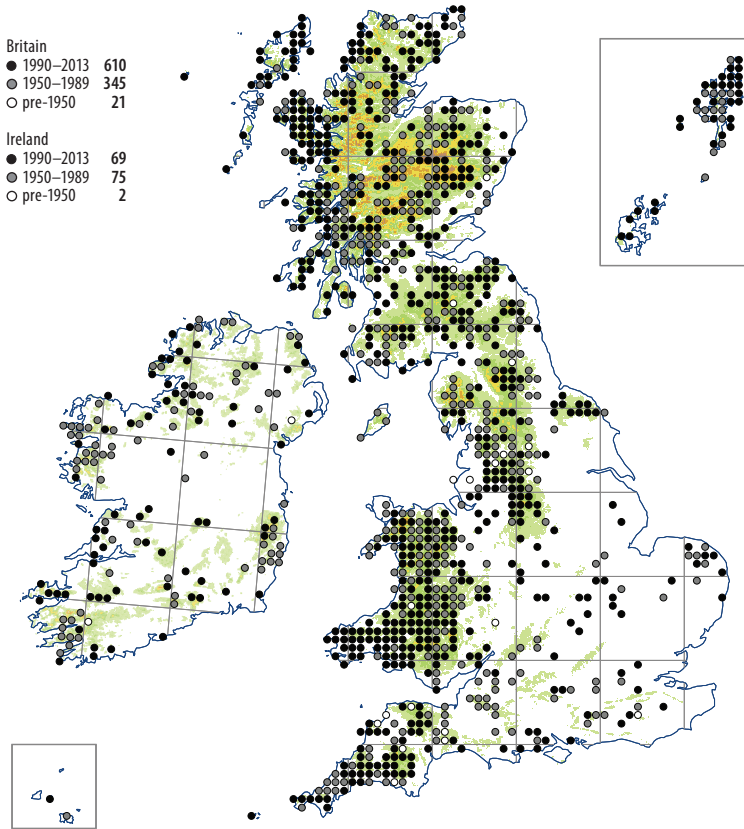


Pellia neesiana



Soil in non-calcareous marshes and wet flushes is the primary habitat of this species, which is most often found amongst rushes or *Molinia* with ubiquitous associates such as *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Brachythecium rivulare* and *Kindbergia praelonga*. Colonies may also be mixed with *Pohlia wahlenbergii*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum*, *Tortula truncata* and scrappy patches of *Sphagnum*. In some areas it also grows on damp clay in woodland rides, along with various rushes and sedges. Its pH preference is for neutral conditions, intermediate between *Pellia epiphylla* and *P. endiviifolia*. Altitudinal range: 5–1100 m.

Records of *P. neesiana* increased dramatically in the 1970s as bryologists became more familiar with its characteristics. Since a peak in the 1980s it appears to have declined somewhat, especially in polluted areas.

Dioicous; only recorded when fertile. Sporophytes are fairly frequent, March to April. Special means of asexual reproduction are absent.

This species has been much confused with *P. epiphylla*. Supposed differences in coloration are unreliable, and the scent of *P. neesiana* is not apparent to all recorders. Since colonies of *P. neesiana* are frequently unisexual and female plants are more distinctive than males, this has led to considerable under-recording.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. *Pellia neesiana* has a more northerly distribution than *P. epiphylla*, reaching Iceland and Greenland, and is commonly found above the tree limit in the Scandinavian mountains. Siberia, Russian Far East, Korea, China, Japan, Himalaya; eastern and western N America.

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