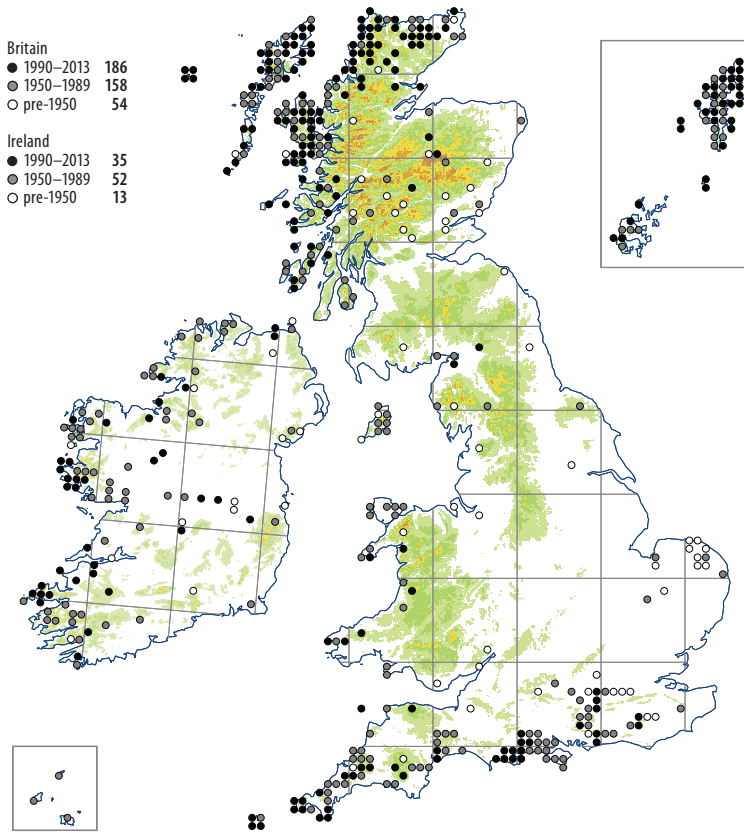


# Campylopus brevipilus



Very locally frequent on heath and moorland, including blanket and valley bogs, growing on moist to wet acid humus and shallow peat. It favours open ground and low vegetation, and avoids shade. It may occur with *Sphagnum tenellum* and *S. compactum* and around the edges of sphagnum mires but it is rarely found in the wetter parts of active bog systems. It also occurs on peaty lake margins and at the edge of seasonal pools. More rarely it grows on acid fixed dunes and occasionally in rather dry heath on gritty or stony ground and cliff tops, where it may be small and stunted. Altitudinal range: 0–550 m.

There was an increase in records before the 1980s, but this may have been due to over-recording (based on immature forms of *Campylopus introflexus*). A general decline in central and eastern areas is mostly of long-standing and

is due to the loss of open heathlands. There has also been some decline in its southern populations, and it has been suggested that it is outcompeted by the invasive *C. introflexus*. Experiments by Duckett *et al.* (2008) showed that this was not true of mature populations, but *C. brevipilus* may be less effective in recolonising after fire. If so this would point to a long-term decline.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare. Vegetative propagation is by deciduous leaves and fragile leaf-tips.

Oceanic Temperate. W and SW Europe, north to C Norway, east to Germany, Switzerland and C Italy. Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira), N Africa (Algeria, Tunisia).

T.L. Blockeel

