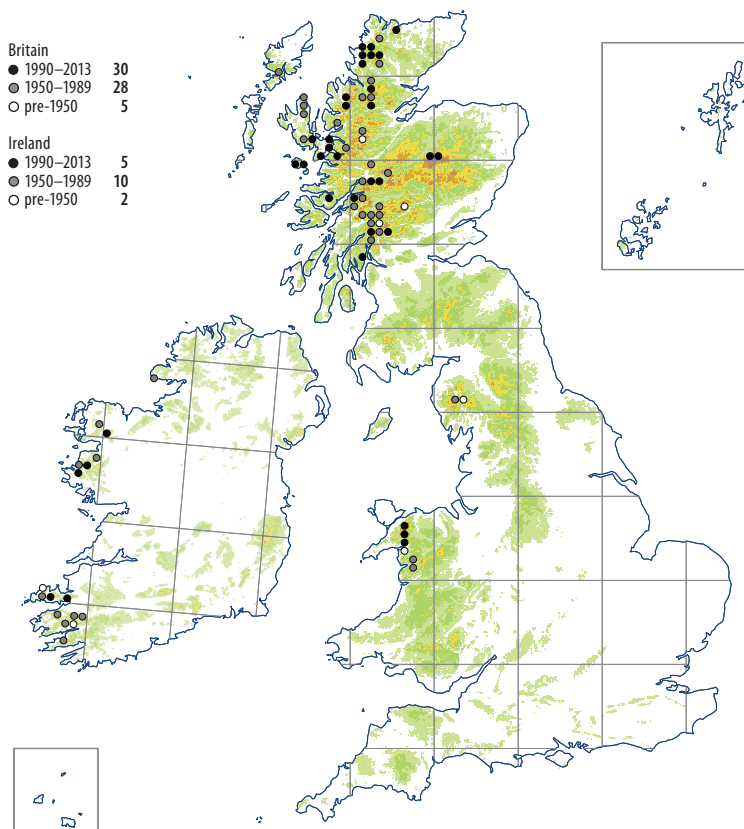


Paraleptodontium recurvifolium

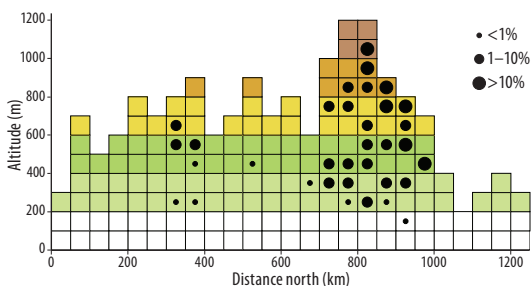


An oceanic-montane species which usually grows as open patches or scattered stems amongst other plants in damp or at least periodically irrigated turf where the run-off is moderately base-rich but not strongly calcareous. A typical habitat is the turf at the base of north or north east facing crags in the hills but it also has a number of sites in ravines where it usually occurs in the spray-zone of waterfalls. Although it may not grow with them, *Paraleptodontium recurvifolium* usually occurs on sites that support some of the large oceanic-montane liverworts like *Scapania ornithopodioides* and *S. nimbosea*. Closer associates in the hills include *Saussurea alpina*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Plagiochila carringtonii*, *Anoetangium aestivum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Sarmentypnum sarmentosum*, and in ravines *Hymenophyllum wilsonii*, *Herbertus hutchinsiae*,

Dicranodontium uncinatum and *Trichostomum tenuirostre*.
Altitudinal range: 140–920 m.

There was a surge of records during the 1990s, perhaps reflecting surveys of Scottish woodlands and ravines. Overstocking of the uplands may have caused some losses in W Ireland (Galway). There are only three recent records from N Wales, despite resurveys of most of this species' historic sites; the decline there is greater than the map suggests and it is considered endangered by Bosanquet & Dines (2011). It has not been recorded in the Lake District for several decades.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown; Dixon (1924) reported finding abortive archegonia in British material. Gemmae are absent but the leaves are fragile and probably serve as a means of vegetative propagation.



Oceanic Boreal-montane. Outside Britain and Ireland known only from western N America (British Columbia, Alaska, the Aleutian Islands) and Asia (Nepal and China).

G.P. Rothero