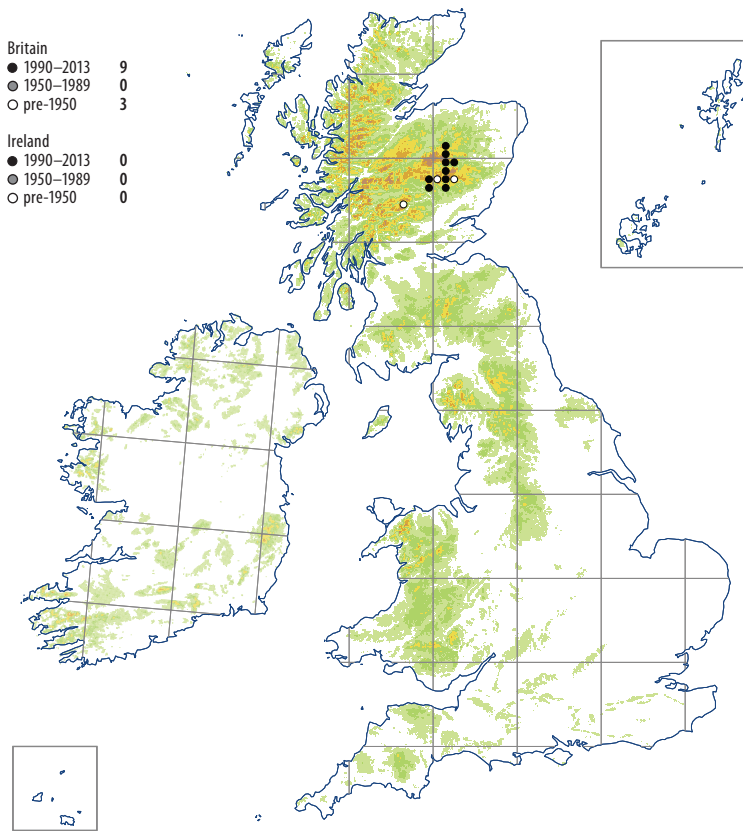


Stegonia latifolia



This tiny moss occurs as low, open turfs or scattered stems on open, calcareous, mineral soil on ledges of broken crags in the mountains. Almost all of the sites are on soils derived from metamorphosed Dalradian Limestone but it also occurs on strongly calcareous schist; all recent sites are in the eastern Grampians, the most 'continental' part of Scotland. The thin soil on the ledges is subject to frost-heave in the winter and dries out rapidly in the summer and these harsh conditions mean that competition is reduced and some small ledges support only *Stegonia latifolia* with no other bryophytes. Where associates do occur they are often sparse but typical species include *Alchemilla alpina*, *Festuca ovina*, *Leiocolea collaris*, *Preissia quadrata*, *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, *Bryum pallens*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Didymodon ferrugineus*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Ditrichum gracile*, *Encalypta rhytocarpa*, *E. streptocarpa*, *Tortella*

tortuosa, the lichen *Solorina saccata*, and at some sites the rarities *Athalamia hyalina*, *Scapania gymnostomophila*, *Bryum arcticum* and *Tortula leucostoma*. Altitudinal range: 420–600 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer. Gemmae are unknown.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Sparsely distributed in N Europe from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia, south in the mountains to N Spain, N Italy and the Balkans (Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria); Caucasus. Turkey, mountains of C Asia and Himalaya, Arctic and northern Russia, N China. Western and northern N America, Newfoundland, Greenland. Antarctica.

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