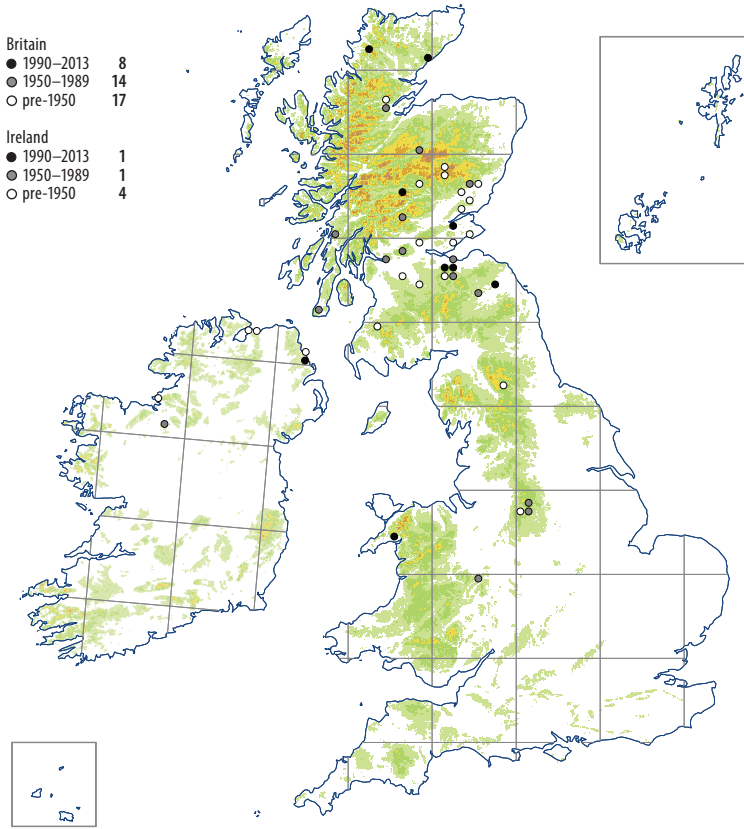


# Syntrichia princeps



A species of base-rich outcrops and cliffs, especially on limestones and basic sandstone, also on basalt and agglomerate rocks, in well-illuminated sites and in open woodland. It often occurs on soil among rocks, on thin soil on ledges and in rock crevices, more rarely on walls and trees. Though mainly confined to the upland districts of Britain, it is normally found at moderate rather than high elevations. Altitudinal range: 200–400 m.

Many of the records are old but it is unclear whether there has been a real decline. *Syntrichia princeps* is not easy to recognise in the field and it is possibly overlooked as *S. ruralis* and *S. montana*. The presence of interrupted tufts of leaves described in some floras is not a constant or reliable feature. Its generally northern distribution in Britain and Ireland is rather surprising as it is primarily a southern species in Europe.

Synoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in summer.

European Temperate. W and S Europe, north to Sweden and SW Germany and Romania. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, east to Mongolia and C China. Western N America and Mexico. Widely reported from temperate and cool regions of the Southern Hemisphere (S America, southern Africa, Australia, New Zealand), but some of these populations (as in Antarctica) may belong to other species of the genus.

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