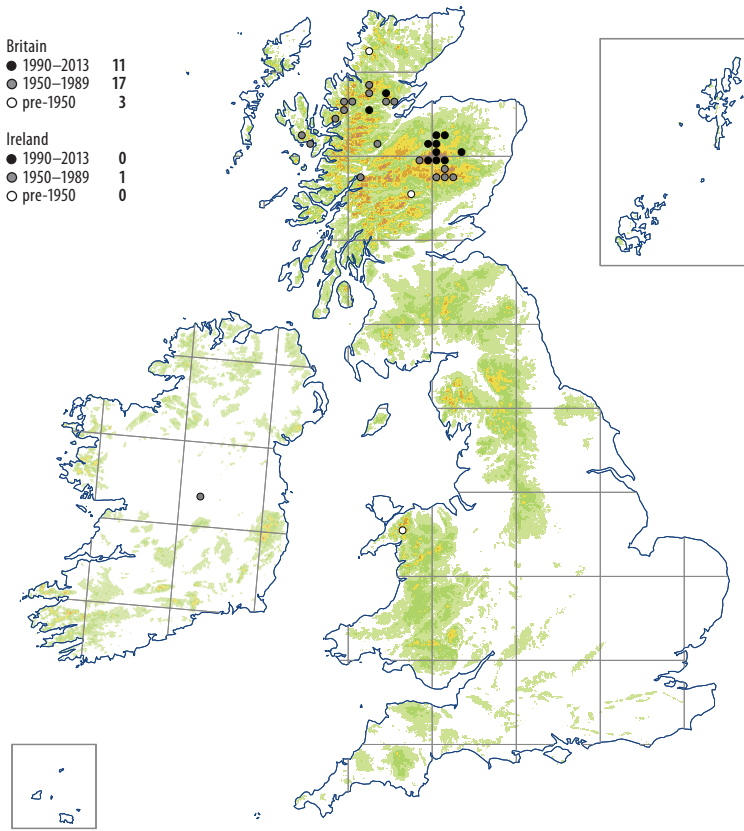


Tetraplodon angustatus



This is a small moss which, like *Tetraplodon mnioides*, occurs primarily on animal scats (usually fox) and on bird pellets, but also occasionally on carrion, usually of sheep or deer. It occurs more frequently in dry sites in scree and on the top of rocks than it does in mire areas, as these sites are more likely to be used as marker points by foxes and perching sites by birds. Some records simply say 'on dung', implying herbivore droppings, but this may reflect an understandable reluctance to investigate the substrate too closely. It is most frequent in the more continental parts of the Scottish Highlands, which makes the record in 1988 from dung among *Sphagnum magellanicum* on a raised bog in the centre of Ireland all the more remarkable. In its restricted habitat it has few associates but it has been found in mixed stands with *Tetraplodon mnioides* and also with *Ceratodon purpureus*. Altitudinal range: 45–915 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. From northern Fennoscandia and Arctic Russia south to France, northern Italy, Romania, Caucasus and the southern Urals. Kazakhstan, Himalaya, Siberia, E Asia, China, Japan. Northern N America (south to Michigan and New York), Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

