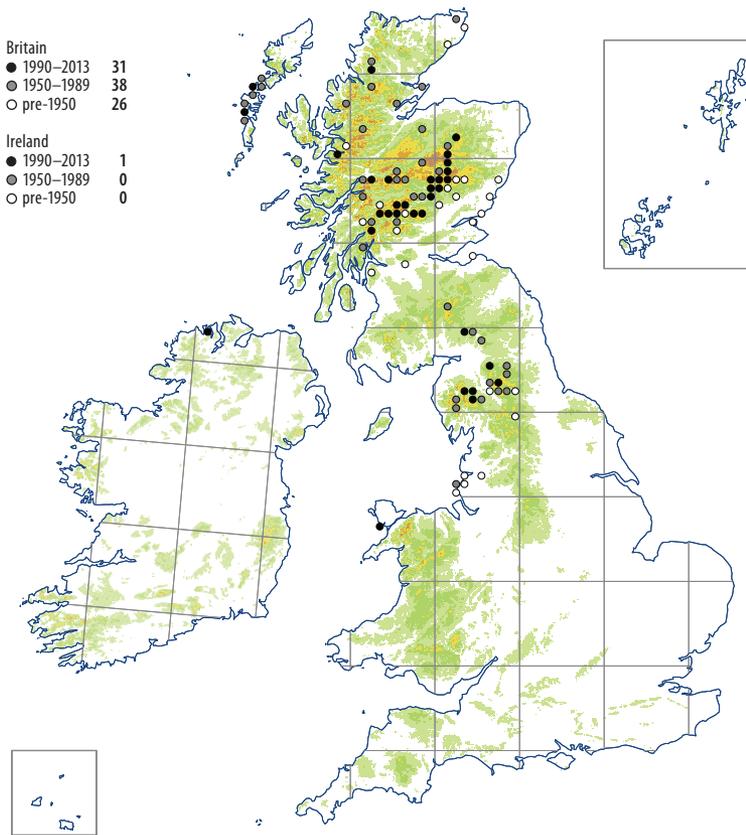


Meesia uliginosa



A moss of flushed calcareous ground both in the hills and on coastal shell-sand. In upland areas it is most frequent on the sides of low hummocks in open stony flushes but also occurs in more closed vegetation on wet banks and occasionally on tufa. Common associates here are *Juncus triglumis*, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *S. oppositifolia*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Leiocolea bantriensis*, *Preissia quadrata*, *Fissidens osmundoides*, *Palustriella commutata* and *Scorpidium scorpioides*. It is a good indicator of richer flushes which may have *Scapania degenii*, *Tritomaria polita*, *Cinclidium stygium*, *Oncophorus virens*, *Splachnum vasculosum* or *Tayloria lingulata*. On flushed shell-sand it usually occurs in a closed bryophyte turf often with other uncommon sand-dune species like *Leiocolea gillmanii*, *Moerckia flotoviana*, *Catocscopium nigrum* and *Distichium inclinatum*. Altitudinal range: 5–950 m.

It has been lost from a number of coastal sites in England and the east of Scotland, primarily from the destruction or drying-out of dune slacks, but there has been little change in its distribution in the hills and in its far north-western coastal sites.

Monoicous; the striking capsules are common, mature in summer.

In the absence of capsules the tight, dark green leaves are easily overlooked. The capsule is superficially very similar to that of *Amblyodon dealbatus*, which has a similar range of habitat, and the records may contain a few errors.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in the boreal zone and common in the Arctic, including Iceland and Svalbard, extending south in Europe to the Pyrenees, Alps and Carpathians, more rarely southwards in the Balkans, to N Greece; Urals, Caucasus. Kyrgyzstan, Himalaya, Mongolia and widespread across N Asia, China. N America south to California and New York State.

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