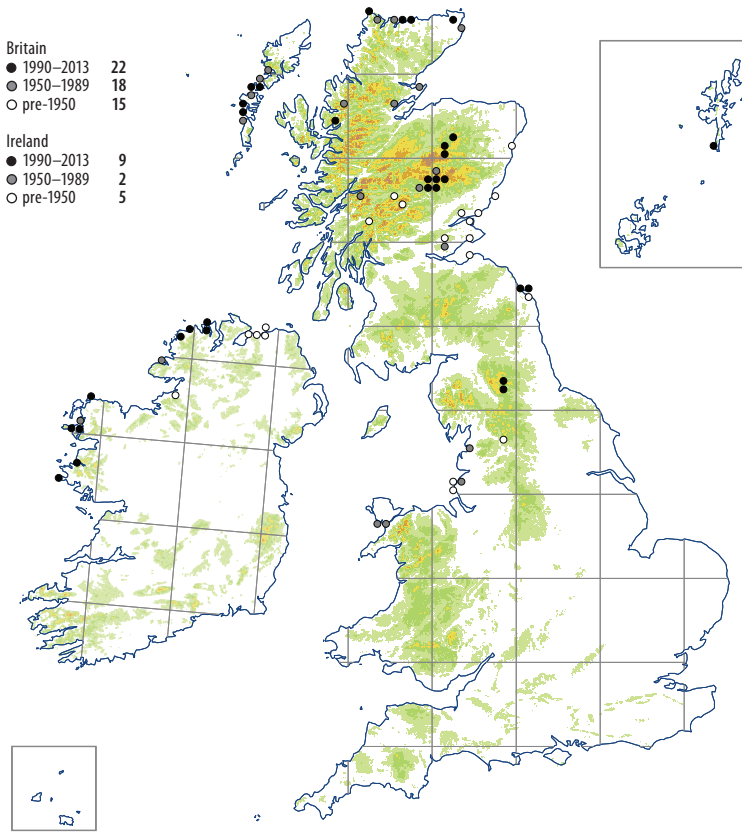


# Catoscopium nigratum



This species, like a number of montane calcicoles, occurs both on mountains and on sandy ground by the sea. In both types of habitat it forms low hummocks in open, very short, intensely nutrient-poor vegetation, where it is flushed or intermittently flooded by water that deposits calcium carbonate. Although generally rare, very locally in dune slacks and machair it can form quite extensive carpets. In montane flushes, it is characteristic of semi-open rocky ground with associates such as dwarf sedges, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Scorpidium cossonii* and *S. scorpioides*. In Upper Teesdale it has been noted in calcareous springs and on the sides of tussocks in calcareous flushes, forming small hummocks similar to those of *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* and mixed with a range of northern calcicoles including *Primula farinosa* (Pigott, 1956). *Amblyodon dealbatus* and *Meesia uliginosa* are regular

associates in both coastal and upland habitats. Altitudinal range: 0–585 m.

It has declined in the southern part of its range from the drying out of dune slacks, and has apparently not been seen in Wales or Lancashire since the 1970s.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, mature in late summer and autumn.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in the Arctic and boreal zones of Europe, north to Iceland, Svalbard and NW Russia, extending south to the main European mountain ranges, reaching the Pyrenees in Spain and Macedonia in the Balkans. Caucasus, Georgia. Across the Northern Hemisphere, north to the high Arctic, and south to the Sayan Mountains in Asia, and to Colorado and the Great Lakes in N America.

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