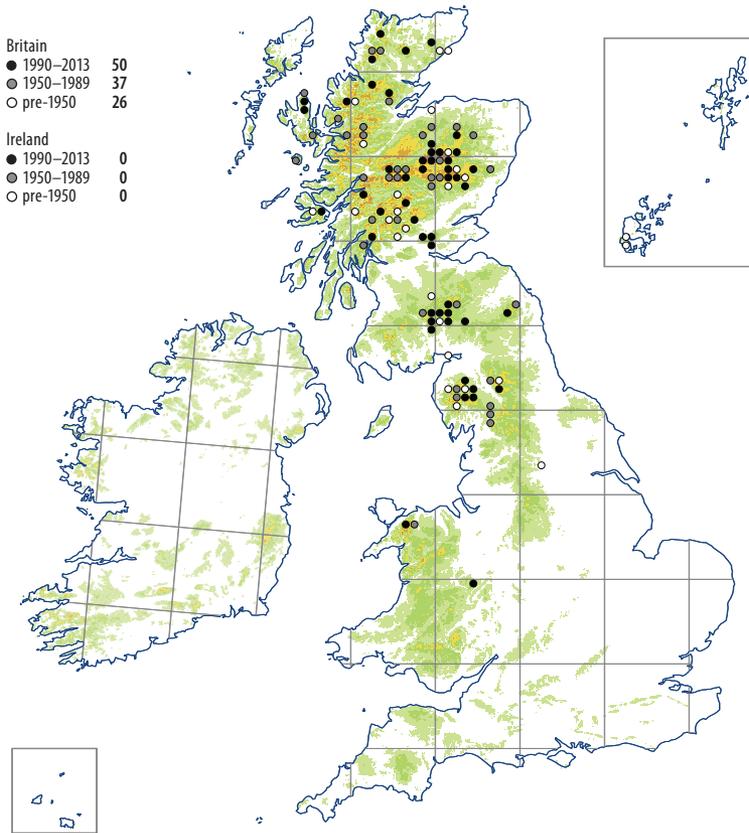


# Bryum weigeli



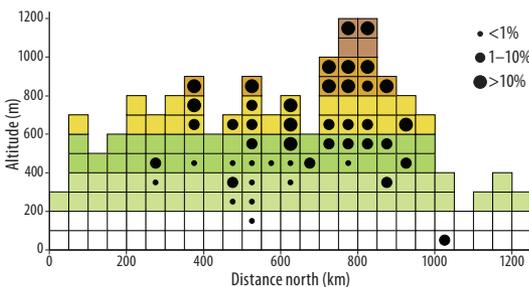
A moss that grows in patches, sometimes extensive, in mountain springs and flushes, by snow patches and streams, and on the shores of highland lochs, often as a constituent of the NVC community M32b (the *Philonotis fontana*–*Saxifraga stellaris* spring, *Montia fontana*–*Chryso-splenium oppositifolium* sub-community). Its habitats are mildly acid, moderately infertile, waterlogged, and usually unshaded (sometimes in partial shade), with associates that include *Epilobium anagallidifolium*, *Montia fontana*, *Chryso-splenium oppositifolium*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*, *Scapania undulata*, *Philonotis fontana*, *P. seriata* and *Pohlia wahlenbergii*, as well as montane bryophytes such as *Scapania paludosa*, *Pohlia ludwigii* and *Pseudobryum cinclidoides*. The southernmost populations, on the Long Mynd in Shropshire, occur on the largest springheads at higher altitudes there (>400 m), typically

growing in *Ranunculus omiophyllus*–*Montia fontana* rills with pH ranging from 5.1–7.0. The most frequent other associates are *Cardamine pratensis*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Poa pratensis* and *Brachythecium rivulare* (Callaghan, 2012). Altitudinal range: 95–1125 m.

Although there are no modern records from many of its old localities there is little evidence of decline because many remote sites have not been revisited, although some colonies might have been lost due to changes in grazing pressure or eutrophication. Specimens labelled as from Waterford that have been accepted as from Ireland are now regarded as having an uncertain provenance (Lockhart *et al.*, 2012).

Diocious, with male plants growing in separate tufts; capsules are unknown in Britain, rare in C Europe (where they mature in May and June) and apparently known also in Fennoscandia (where they mature in summer). Axillary bulbils, axillary gemmae and tubers are absent; protonemal gemmae were reported from Japan by Imura (1994), but not produced by *in vitro* cultures of British plants studied by Pressel *et al.* (2007).

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. In Europe it occurs from Iceland, Svalbard and N Russia (Kola Peninsula) south to Spain (Sierra Nevada), the Alps, Carpathians and Caucasus. Known elsewhere in Siberia, E Asia, Japan, Greenland, N America, Costa Rica. Disjunct in the Southern Hemisphere on Kerguelen Island.



D.T. Holyoak