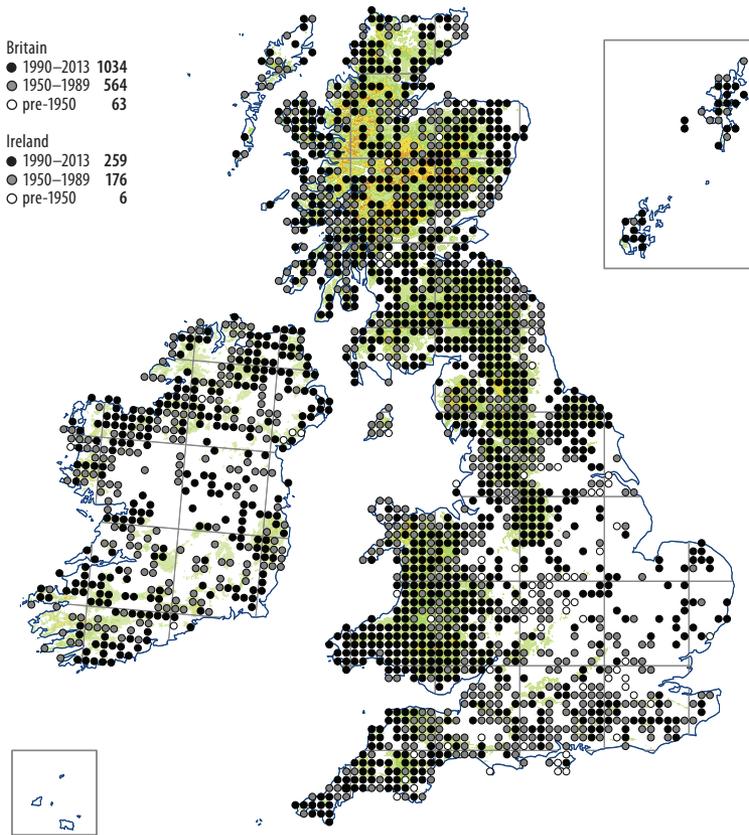


# Pohlia wahlenbergii



This species occurs in a wide variety of moist or wet habitats. In the mountains it grows in wet places, usually in or near oligotrophic bryophyte springs and flushes, with such species as *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Scapania undulata*, *Philonotis fontana*, *Pohlia ludwigii*, *Straminergon stramineum* and *Sphagnum* spp. It is also a characteristic species of seeping or dripping crags by streams and waterfalls and in ravines, sometimes on slightly base-rich rocks where associates may include *Conocephalum conicum*, *Pellia endiviifolia* and *Gymnostomum aeruginosum*. At lower altitudes (as well as in the uplands) a common habitat is on moist sandy or gravelly soil and hardcore on forest roads, woodland rides, unsealed tracks and waste ground, in association with such species as *Barbula convoluta*, *Bryum dichotomum*, *B. ruderale*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Cratoneuron flicinum*, *Philonotis fontana*, *Pseudophemerum nitidum* and

*Tortula truncata*. It is often present in small quantity and is clearly a ready colonist. Other habitats include flushes and marshes, floors of sand pits, mine spoil, earthy ditch banks, moist pockets in grassland and occasionally arable fields, especially those on acid soils in the north and west. Altitudinal range: 0–1190 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in summer. Slender innovations or branchlets are sometimes present and probably assist in vegetative propagation.

A very variable species; two varieties in addition to the type are recognised but they have not been recorded with sufficient consistency to be mapped separately. Var. *glacialis* accommodates large montane forms from springs and flushes. Var. *calcarea* is a small form of calcareous grasslands, including chalk, but it is poorly understood and is neglected by most recorders.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Europe including Iceland and Svalbard, rare in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East. Widespread in the temperate, boreal and Arctic zones of the Northern Hemisphere and the temperate Southern Hemisphere, south to the South Shetland islands. Isolated localities in the tropics, mainly in the Andes.

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