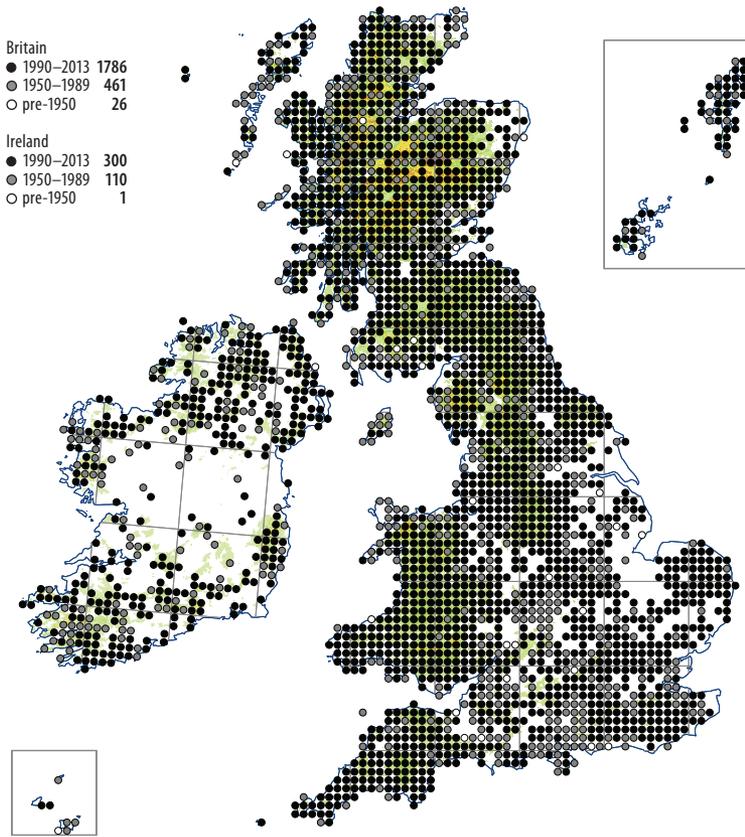


Rhizomnium punctatum



A characteristic moss of damp shaded habitats, ranging from mildly acid to base-rich. It is regularly present on the banks of shaded or sheltered streams, especially those with stony or rocky beds, growing on alluvium, soil, stones, among tree roots and on rotting wood. In woodland and on shaded banks away from water it colonises stones and decorticated logs provided that they are sufficiently damp, and it is frequent in woodland flushes, often growing among *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. In willow carr and swampy woodland it occurs a little above normal water level on and among tree roots and at the bases of sedge and grass tussocks. It also colonises man-made habitats such as shaded culverts and wall-bases. In the uplands it occurs along the banks of moorland streams, and on dripping rocks and wet ledges in ravines and gullies and on cliffs. Marshes, fens, upland flushes and springheads are another occasional

habitat, and in these places it may easily be mistaken for *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum*. In drier habitats, especially in the lowlands, its presence may be manifest only as patches of persistent chocolate-brown protonema with sparse green shoots. Altitudinal range: 0–970 m.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, mature in late winter and spring. Gemmae are produced on the protonema; both the protonema and gemmae remain viable when dried out and are probably the most important means of dispersal in drier habitats (Duckett & Ligrone, 1994).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Almost throughout Europe north to Iceland, the Faeroes, N Norway and Arctic Russia, but rare in the lowlands of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Asia east to Siberia, but in eastern Asia replaced by closely related species. In N America represented by subsp. *chlorophyllosum* (Kindb.) Kop.

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