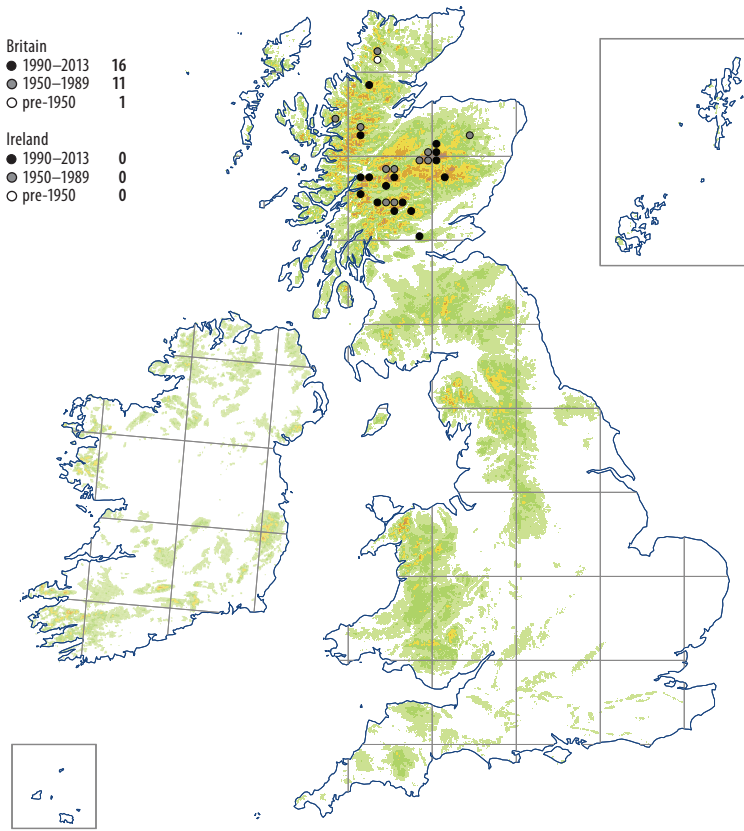


Rhizomnium magnifolium



A large moss of regularly irrigated or permanently wet sites in flushes or crevices in broken crags and seemingly indifferent to rock type. Almost all records are from high in the mountains and are often associated with melt-water from snow patches, but in the Cairngorms it descends to lower altitudes. It is usually associated with common flush species like *Chrysoplenium oppositifolium*, *Anthelia julacea*, *Scapania uliginosa*, *S. undulata*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Philonotis fontana*, *Pohlia wahlenbergii* var. *glacialis*, and more rarely *Saxifraga rivularis* and *Scapania paludosa*. On wet rocks it can occur with a wide range of montane species including *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Harpanthus flotovianus*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *M. sphacelata*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Andreaea alpina*, *A. nivalis*, *A. rupestris*, *Ditrichum zonatum*, *Kiaeria falcata*, *K. glacialis*, *K. starkei*, *Oligotrichum hercynicum*, *Pohlia ludwigii* and *Polytrichastrum sexangulare*. Long (1982d) provides a

detailed account of its ecology in Scotland. Altitudinal range: 285–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain.

Not recognised in Britain until the 1970s and confused in the past with other species of *Rhizomnium*. Only a few additional records have accumulated since the 1991–1994 Atlas, and it is probably still under-recorded north of the Great Glen.

European Boreal-montane. Known from Iceland, Fennoscandia and the adjacent regions of Russia, south to Portugal, north-central Spain, the Alps, Carpathians and Balkan mountains; Urals. Georgia, Siberia, Himalaya, E Asia, Japan. N America from Alaska to New Mexico in the west and from Labrador to Michigan in the east, Greenland.

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