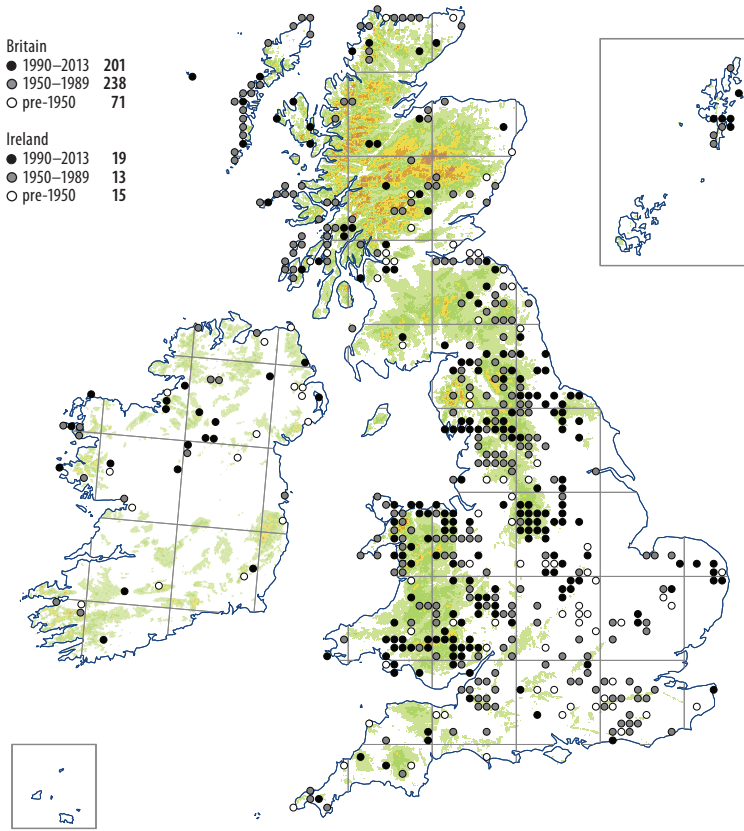


Plagiomnium cuspidatum



A moss with a rather diverse ecology. A frequent habitat is on old moss-covered logs, stumps and tree bases in woodland on basic soils, usually alongside other large mosses such as *Brachythecium rutabulum* and *Bryum capillare*, but it also occurs on living trunks and branches where there is an accumulation of humus, especially on old elders. In some districts it is widespread on earthy ledges and boulders on base-rich rock, and occasionally on old mossy walls. Less frequently it is a component of short herb-rich turf, especially on calcareous soil, for example in limestone turf in ancient mine sites, and sometimes also in coastal grassland. Its woodland sites are usually in light to moderate shade, but its sites in turf it are generally on open ground. Altitudinal range: 0–650 m.

In spite of the wide range and availability of apparently suitable habitats, *Plagiomnium cuspidatum* is rather sporadic in occurrence. It is said to have declined in southern and eastern England, but it appears always to have been rare in these areas. There is no evidence of decline in other parts of its range, such as the Peak District.

Synicous; capsules are frequent, mature in spring. Protonemal gemmae are reported by Pressel *et al.* (2007).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Much of Europe north to Iceland, N Scandinavia and Arctic Russia, south to S Spain, C Italy and the Balkan mountains, not in the Mediterranean lowlands. N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Northern and temperate Asia to China and Japan. N America, Mexico. East Africa (Kenya, Uganda).

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