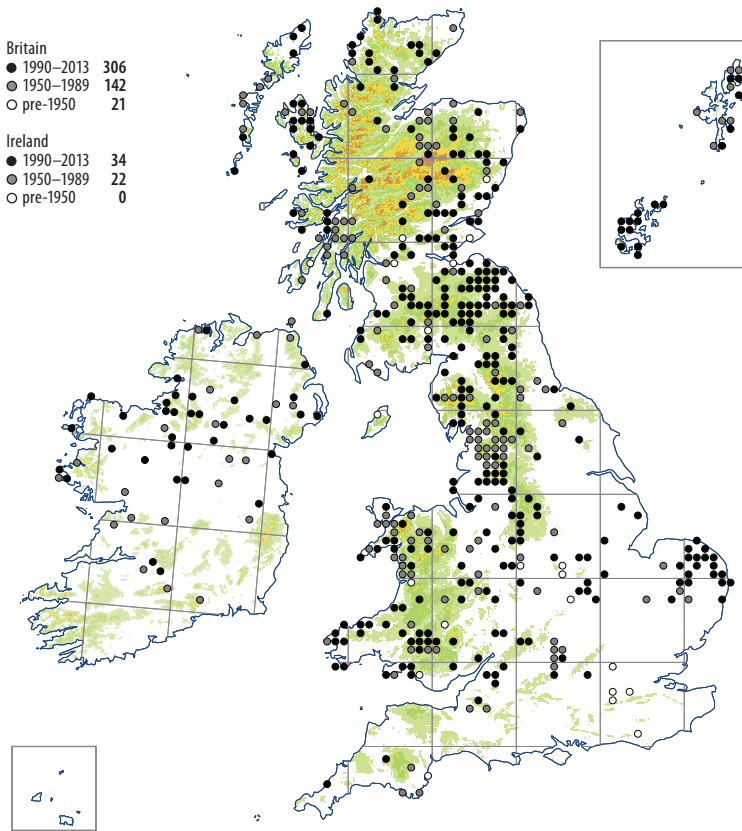


Plagiomnium ellipticum



A wetland species that occurs in a wide range of habitats. It is characteristic of mineral-rich ground but is less demanding of high base-status than *Plagiomnium elatum*, although it is not found in oligotrophic mires. In woodland it grows in flushes and seepages and in alder and willow carr, sometimes with *Calliergon cordifolium*. A common habitat on moorland is in *Juncus* flushes and marshes, but it also occurs in springheads with *Philonotis fontana*, on lake margins, in wet ground by streams, and in wet rushy pastures. In calcareous fens it occurs in similar niches to but less commonly than *P. elatum*. Altitudinal range: 0–840 m.

Like *P. elatum*, it was poorly understood before the 1960s and therefore under-represented in the 1991–1994 Atlas. It is probably still under-recorded.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, mature in summer.

It is easily confused with *P. affine*, *P. elatum* and small forms of *P. undulatum* and there are likely to be some mapping errors.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. In Europe from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south to the mountains on the northern fringe of the Mediterranean region and on Corsica. Turkey, Caucasus. Widely across northern and temperate Asia to China and Japan. Widespread in N America. Southern S America.

T.L. Blockeel

