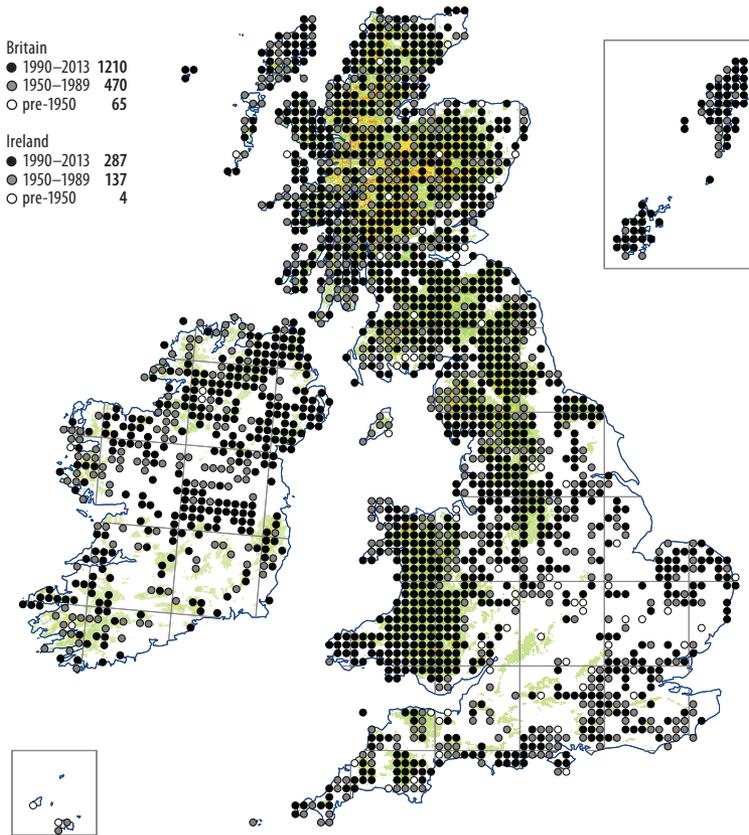


# Aulacomnium palustre



Britain  
 ● 1990–2013 1210  
 ◐ 1950–1989 470  
 ○ pre-1950 65

Ireland  
 ● 1990–2013 287  
 ◐ 1950–1989 137  
 ○ pre-1950 4

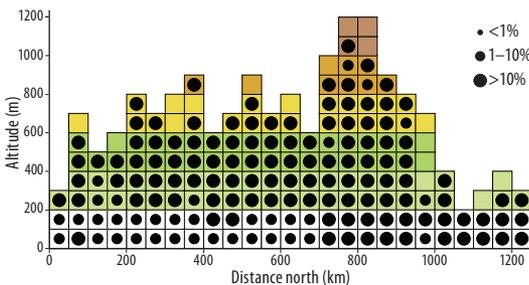
A species of damp, more or less acid, usually peaty ground in a wide range of habitats. These include moist turf, *Molinia*-dominated grassland, heathland, moorland and wet pastures, communities dominated by *Carex rostrata* and other sedges, lowland valley bogs, blanket bogs, upland mires, fen carr and open woodland. It is often a component of transitions between poor fen and bog, forming dense cushions on which *Eriophorum vaginatum* and ericoids can become established above the influence of inflowing water. It is also frequent in sites which receive a supply of slightly base-enriched water, where characteristic associates include the more base-tolerant sphagna (e.g. *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *S. palustre* and *S. subnitens*) and pleurocarps such as *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Straminergon stramineum*. In some regions it has colonised old sand, gravel and clay pits, disused railway

cuttings and former industrial sites. On some of these sites, such as old colliery tips, it occurs abundantly on unusually dry, well-drained banks of shaly spoil, with *Dicranum scoparium*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Polytrichum formosum* and other heathland species. Altitudinal range: 0–1120 m.

Habitat destruction has led to the loss of many sites for this species in S England and around urban areas, but it has considerable colonising ability and the losses have been balanced in part by the invasion of newly available man-made habitats.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in summer. Leaf-like gemmae are sometimes produced on elongate stem apices, perhaps when conditions are unfavourable.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Widespread in Europe, extending north to Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Azores, N Africa, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria, Caucasus. Found across most of northern and temperate Asia, including Himalaya. N America south to Mexico and Dominican Republic. Northern S America (Andes) and southern S America. C Africa. Australia and New Zealand.



C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel