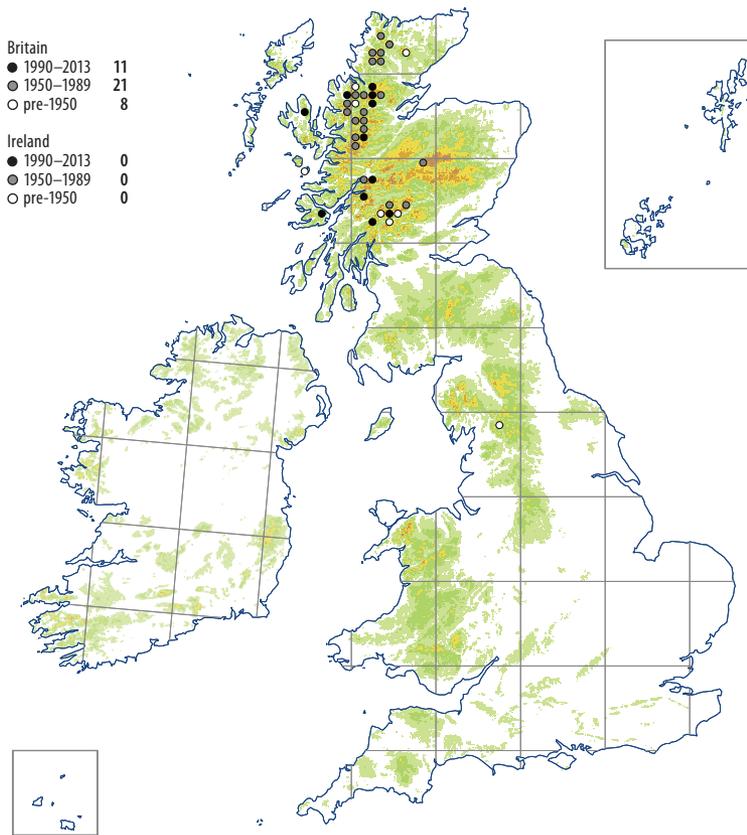


Aulacomnium turgidum



Most of the sites for this moss in the north and west of Scotland are from well-drained, species-rich *Racomitrium* heath on wind-blasted fell-fields. Here it usually occurs in a mat of *R. lanuginosum* and ericaceous shrubs at the edge of soil-creep terraces or amongst the larger stones in stone polygons. Other common associates are *Antennaria dioica*, *Alchemilla alpina*, *Armeria maritima*, *Carex bigelowii*, *Galium saxatile*, *Salix herbacea*, *Silene acaulis*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Thymus polytrichoides*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, and rarely *Artemisia norvegica* and *Hypnum hamulosum*. It can also grow in short calcareous grassland and on ledges of base-rich crags with much the same associates but also with calcicoles such as *Carex atrata*, *Minuartia sedoides*, *Herbertus stramineus*, *Scapania aspera*, *Ditrichum gracile* and, rarely, *Hypnum bambergeri*. The English record was made on

Wherside in 1878 but has never been refound and there is some doubt about the original identification. Altitudinal range: 700–1000 m.

The low proportion of post-1990 records probably reflects a neglect by bryologists of the higher hills, particularly in Wester Ross, rather than a real change. Subfossil material of *Aulacomnium turgidum* has been found in Britain in both early and late glacial material at sites south of its current range; Dickson (1973) suggests that it may have persisted throughout the last glacial.

Dioicous; capsules have not been found in Britain and the species is not known to produce gemmae.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Common in the Arctic and extending south into Fennoscandia and rarely in C Europe, reaching the Alps, Montenegro (doubtfully) and Romania. N and E Russia, Himalaya, Japan. N America south to Mexico. E Africa (Kenya).

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