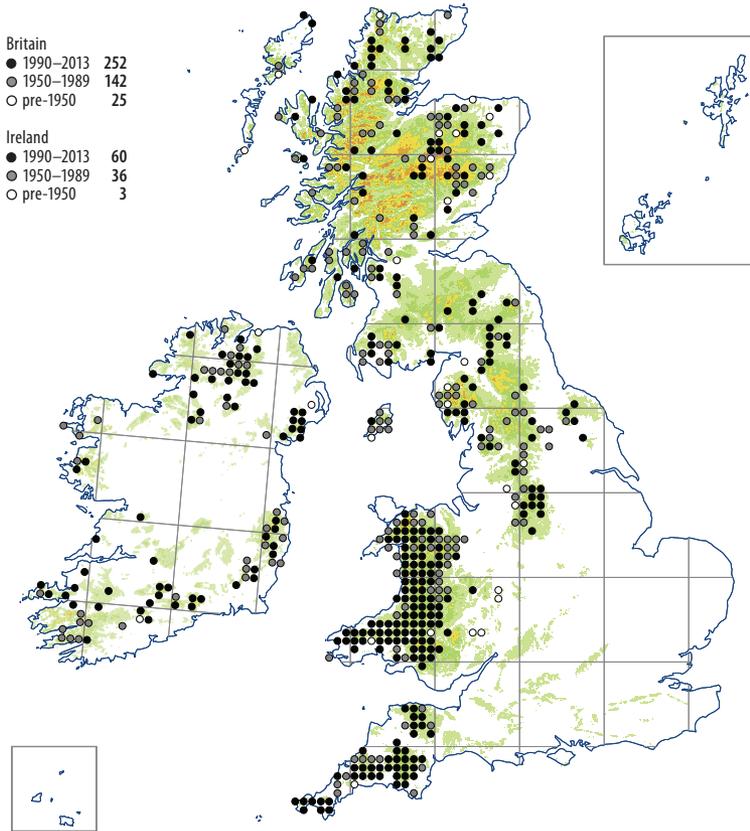


# Fontinalis squamosa



Much more restricted in its habitat range than *Fontinalis antipyretica*, this moss grows submerged in nutrient- and base-poor water in fast-flowing streams and rivers, attached to rocks, boulders and tree roots, where it is submersed for all or most of the year. Although it is common in streams in open country, it also occurs in light to moderate shade in wooded valleys. It is also found on boulders by reservoirs, where there is some movement of water (e.g. by wave action). Although less widespread than *F. antipyretica* it is commoner than that species in areas such as the Land's End Peninsula and Bodmin Moor, Cornwall (Paton, 1969) and in many other moorland areas where acid rocks predominate. However both species may occur together in less acid sites; other associates include *Scapania undulata*, *Hygrohypnum ochraceum* and *Platyhypnidium lusitanicum*. Altitudinal range: 5–650 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional to rare, mature in summer, occurring on submersed plants. They are remarkably regular at some sites, having been known, for example, in the Hebden Water, SW Yorkshire, for more than a century. This suggests that there may be an uneven distribution of the sexes.

Two varieties in addition to the type are recognised in Britain and Ireland but their taxonomic status is uncertain. They are not mapped separately here. *Var. dixonii* occurs from N Wales northwards and in Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, but has not been recorded consistently. *Var. curnowii* requires mature capsules for identification; it is recorded from SW England, with an old record for Cheshire.

Suboceanic Temperate. Widespread in Europe north to 68°N in Norway (not in Iceland or Svalbard), east to the Ural mountains, rare and mostly western in the Mediterranean region. N Africa. Siberia. South Africa, probably introduced.

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