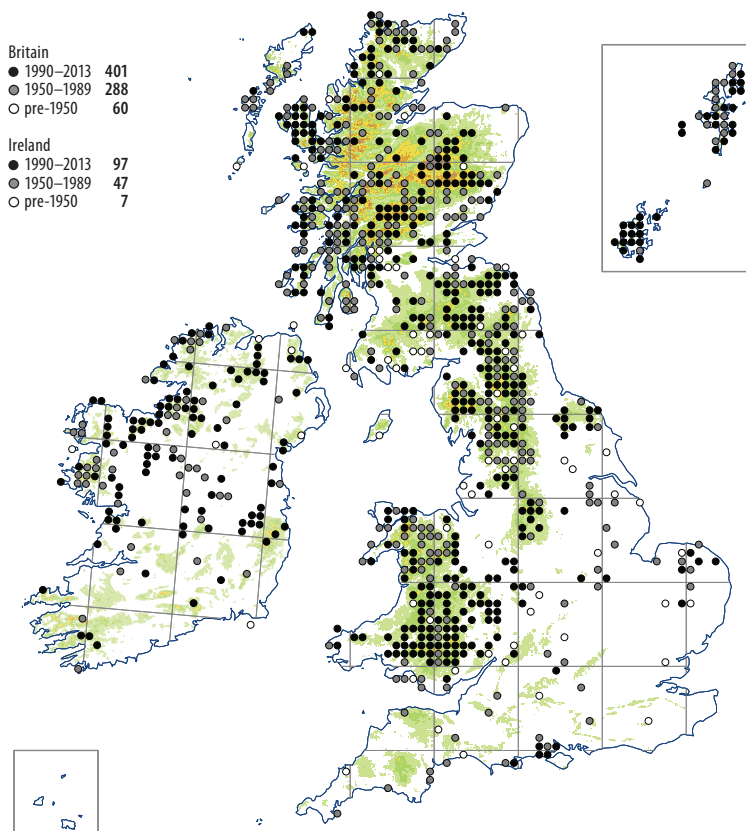


Palustriella falcata



A locally common plant most often found in calcium-rich flushes, seepages and open small-sedge fens with lateral movement of calcareous (but probably generally phosphate-poor) water. It extends to more weakly basic sites than *Palustriella commutata*, and is only rarely found in shaded habitats or on dripping cliffs. The two species occasionally grow in proximity in gravelly flushes and near springheads but normally they occupy different ecological niches. *P. falcata* is conspicuous in some grazed upland calcareous mires on Carboniferous Limestone in the Craven Pennines, Upper Teesdale and the Brecon Beacons. Typical associates are *Aneura pinguis*, *Jungermannia exsertifolia*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Campylium stellatum*, *Scorpidium cossonii* and *S. scorpioides*. Altitudinal range: 5–1100 m.

Some forms can be difficult to separate from *P. commutata* but Hedenäs (2010b) found that it differed from both *P. commutata* and *P. decipiens* in molecular data. Because of the confusion with *P. commutata* it has not always been differentiated by recorders and may be under-represented on the map. However the overall distribution is accurate.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in N and C Europe, north to Iceland, the Faeroes, N Fennoscandia (but not Svalbard) and N Russia, and in mountains in S Europe, but largely absent in the Mediterranean lowlands. Madeira, N Africa, Turkey, Iraq, Caucasus, Iran, N, C and E Asia, probably widespread, but not always distinguished from *P. commutata*. N America, south to New Mexico.

Dioicous; capsules are uncommon, mature in summer.

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