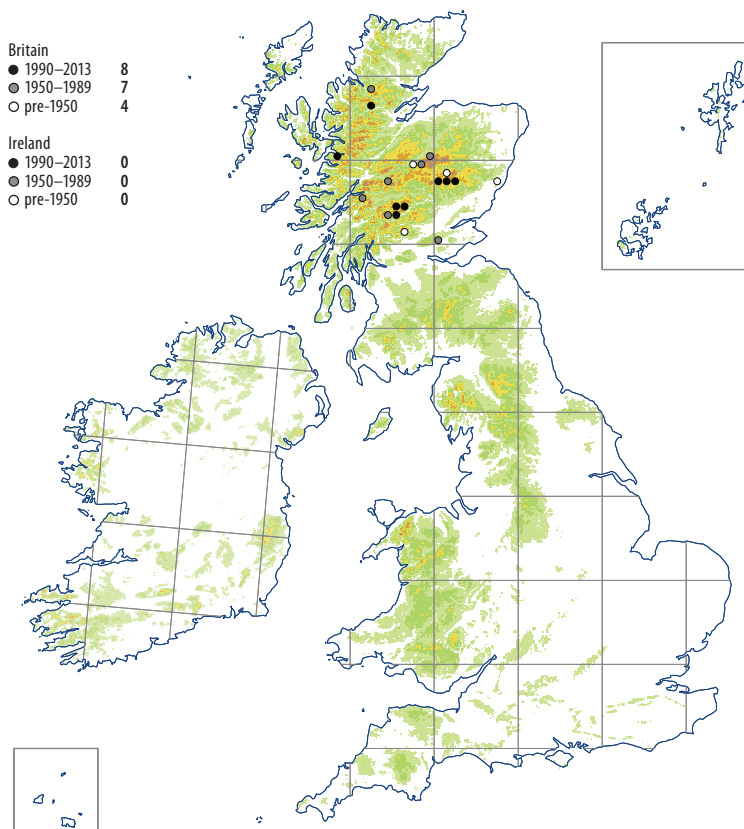


Palustriella decipiens



This moss forms patches of erect fronds in springs and flushes in the mountains where the run-off is strongly calcareous. It is a constituent part of the *Palustriella commutata* spring community which often forms at the head of more open stony flushes with *Saxifraga aizoides*, but it can occasionally occur in springs with *Philonotis fontana* and *Pohlia wahlenbergii* var. *glacialis*. Associates include *Carex demissa*, *Cochlearia micacea*, *Epilobium anagallidifolium*, *Persicaria vivipara*, *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Selaginella selaginoides*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Jungermannia exsertifolia* subsp. *cordifolia*, *Scapania undulata*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Palustriella commutata*, *P. falcata*, *Philonotis fontana* and rarely *Splachnum vasculosum* and *Tayloria lingulata*. Altitudinal range: 650–1000 m.

It is easily confused with other *Palustriella* species and its identification requires microscopic confirmation. It may therefore have been overlooked at some sites, but it is unlikely that this has affected the overall pattern of distribution. Two old records from England (Yorkshire) have proved to be errors and are not mapped.

European Boreo-arctic montane. Iceland, Fennoscandia and N Russia south to the mountains of C and S Europe, reaching S Spain (Sierra Nevada), C Italy and N Greece; Urals, Caucasus. Scattered records in C and E Asia, Japan. Western N America, Alaska.

G.P. Rothero

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in summer.

