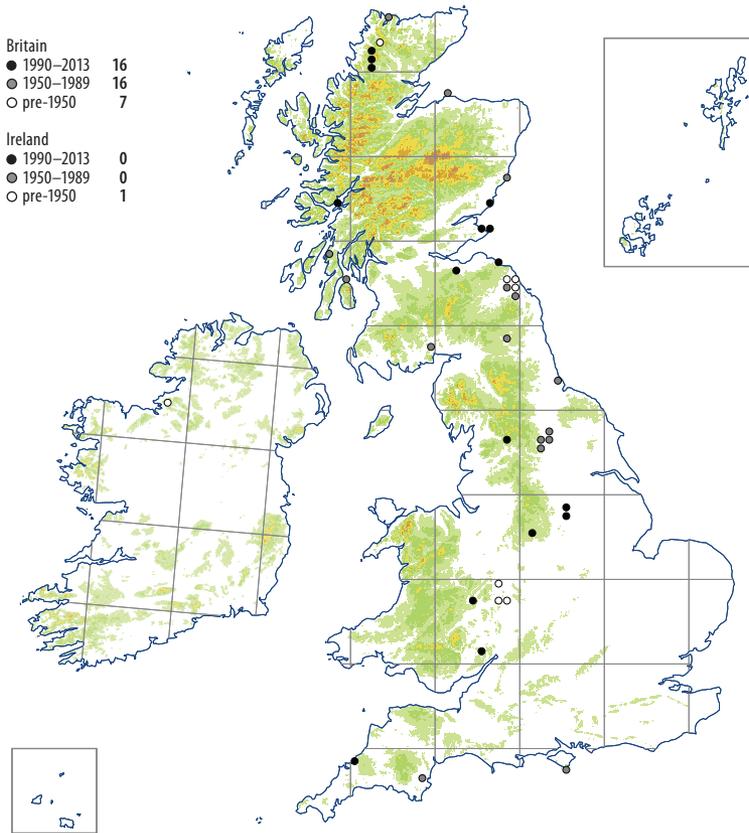


Conardia compacta



A pale green moss forming thin but sometimes extensive mats on rocks and stony soil, often but not always in deep shade. It is intolerant of competition and often occurs in sparse vegetation at the base of crags, on rock ledges, below overhangs and in caves. Inland, it is largely confined to calcareous habitats, including Magnesian Limestone in the N Midlands and Yorkshire, and sandstone in SE Scotland; most sites are in woodland, on wooded or sheltered crags or in ravines. However some of its sites are coastal, reflecting its occurrence in N Europe, where it grows on rocks and soil on sea shores the edge of saltmarsh. Its British coastal sites are generally on rocky shores, as on sandstone rock ledges in eastern Scotland, in a deep cleft on coastal limestone in Argyll, and on slaty rocks at the base of a crag in Cornwall. Details of its habitat in Ireland (Gleniff) are not known but it is likely to have been on limestone. Altitudinal range: 10–350 m.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Europe. Multicellular, filamentous gemmae are often present on the dorsal surface of the nerve towards the tip of the leaf.

Conardia is sometimes recorded in error, mostly from lack of familiarity. However its distribution is likely to be substantially accurate. Its rarity is somewhat surprising in view of the wide geographical spread of its occurrences.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Widespread but rather rare in Europe north to Iceland and Arctic Norway (Finnmark), south to Corsica, N Italy and northern Greece; Caucasus. N Africa (Morocco). C and E Asia. N America (where it is widespread and fertile), Greenland, Guatemala.

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