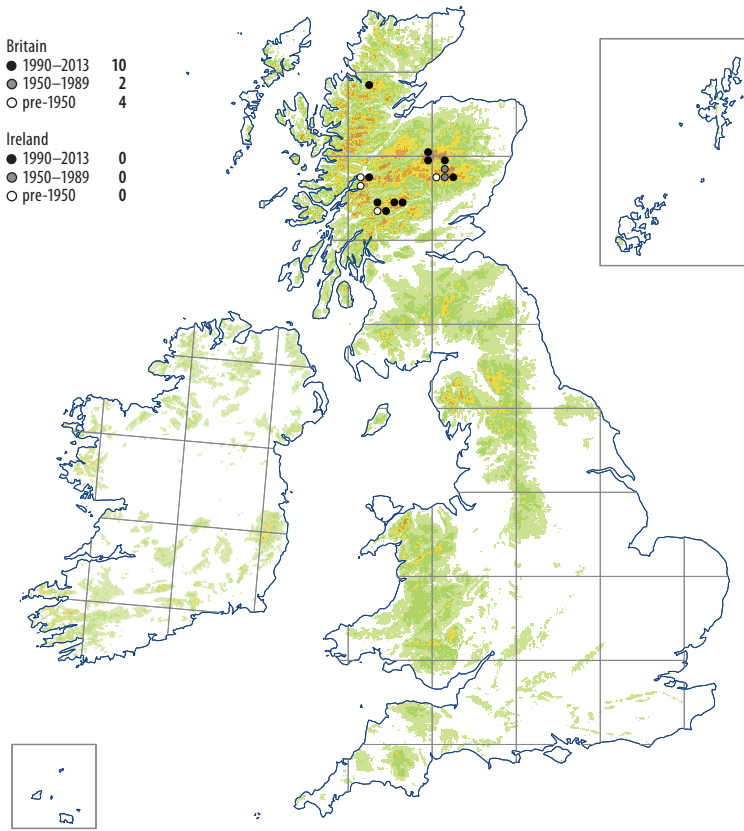


# Hygrohypnum smithii



This moss is a riparian species growing as stiff stems in dark-green mats, often denuded below, which are tightly appressed to rocks in burns. It can also occur rarely in more or less permanent seepage lines on crags high in the hills. In the burns it is usually found near waterfalls or cascades, and in both habitats it occurs where the substrate or run-off is at least a moderately base-rich and is most often strongly calcareous. It is locally frequent in the watercourses around Ben Lawers and Glas Maol above Glenshee, Perthshire, but is very scarce elsewhere. Associates include *Saxifraga aizoides*, *Jungermannia exsertifolia* subsp. *cordifolia*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Scapania uliginosa*, *S. undulata*, *Blindia acuta*, *Hygrohypnum ochraceum*, *Palustriella falcata*, *Philonotis fontana* and *Tortella tortuosa*. Altitudinal range: 610–1075 m.

Autoicous; inflorescences are common and most populations frequently produce capsules, mature in summer.

European Boreal-montane. Iceland and Arctic Europe (but not Svalbard), south to the Pyrenees, Alps and Bulgaria; Caucasus. Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Russian Far East. Western and north-eastern N America, Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

