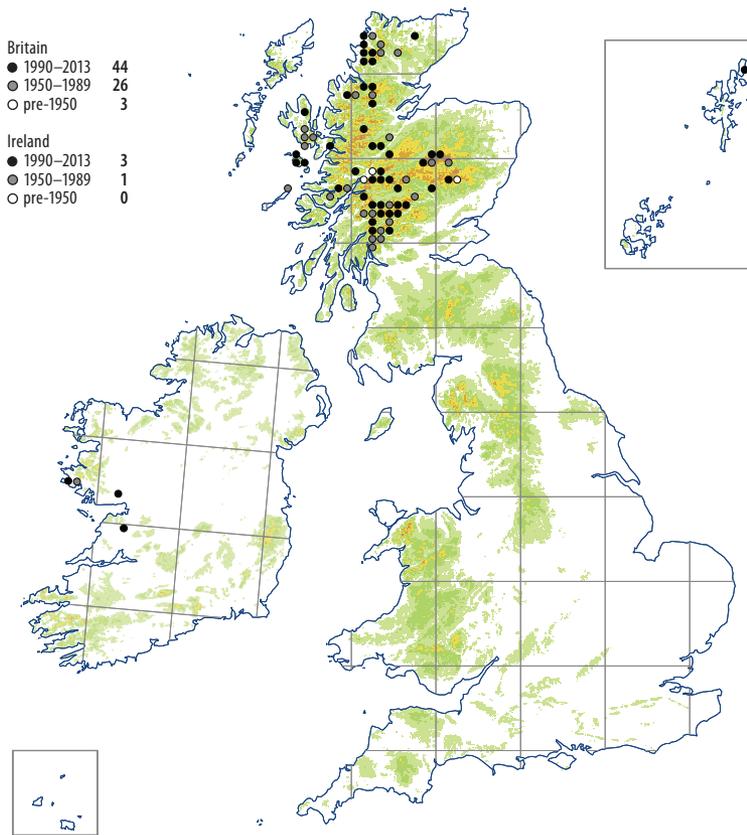


## *Pseudocalliergon trifarium*



A moss of base-rich flushes in the hills where it can grow in both open stony flushes and more closed vegetation, often with *Carex saxatilis*. In the calcareous schist hills of the Central Highlands it is often associated with *Juncus triglumis*, *Palustriella commutata*, *P. falcata*, *Scorpidium cossonii* and *S. scorpioides*, but also with less common species including *Scapania degenii*, *Tritomania polita*, *Amblyodon dealbatus*, *Cinclidium stygium* and *Oncophorus virens*. Further north it is characteristic of open stony flushes, often in a rather ordinary association with *Scorpidium revolvens*, *S. scorpioides*, *Blindia acuta*, *Campylium stellatum* var. *stellatum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens osmundoides* and, occasionally, *Tortella tortuosa*. On the igneous rocks of the Inner Hebrides it occurs at low altitude in flushes with *Scorpidium scorpioides*, often on the margins of lochs, and it occurs in similar sites in Ireland in calcareous mires and

on the margins of seasonally fluctuating loughs. Altitudinal range: 10–1120 m.

Like other boreal 'rich-fen' species, *Pseudocalliergon trifarium* is declining in the European lowlands. It may have persisted in the East Anglian fens until historical times; there is a tantalising record from Whittlesey Mere, Huntingdonshire, by Berkeley (1863), but this is unsupported by a specimen. There is no sign of any decline in Scotland, where its range reflects quite well the distribution of base-rich rocks in the hills. The large number of older records is almost certainly due to a lack of recording in those areas.

Dioicous; capsules have not been found in Britain or Ireland.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in boreal and Arctic regions, from Iceland, Svalbard, Fennoscandia, the Baltic States and N Russia, southwards to the Alps and Balkan mountains; Urals, Caucasus. With a wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere. Turkey, Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Altai mountains, across N Asia to the Arctic and northern Far East of Russia. Rare and local in northern N America, Greenland. Dominican Republic, Columbia and Venezuela.

*M.O. Hill, rev. G.P. Rothero*

