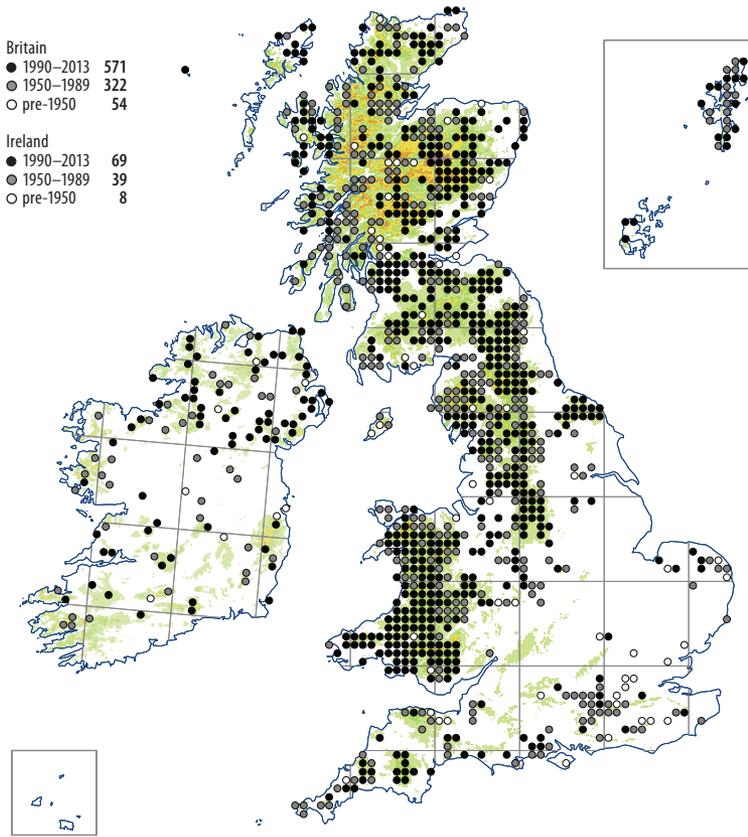


# Straminergon stramineum



This moss of wet, moderately acid, peaty ground is normally found as scattered stems or small patches among more robust bryophytes, but it also occurs as straggling mats, sometimes semi-submerged, beside lakes and in peaty runnels and ditches. Typical habitats include flushed valley bottoms, acid fens, oligotrophic flushes, lakeside marshes, and ditches and depressions on bogs, especially near their margins or in old peat-diggings. Less often it is found among alder and willows in wet open woodland, and occasionally it grows among moist grasses or ericaceous shrubs where there are no obvious signs of flushing or surface water. It avoids both the most acid and most basic ground, growing with associates such as *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Viola palustris*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sarmentypnum exannulatum*, and *Sphagnum fallax*. It sometimes occurs in stony acid runnels

and is a fairly frequent member of snowbed communities in Scotland. It has been found, exceptionally, among rocks at the summit of the Cairngorms. Altitudinal range: 5–1280 m.

The type locality was a marsh on the west side of Hampstead Heath, London, where it was collected about 1780 by James Dickson, with capsules. It has disappeared from there and from a number of other lowland localities as heathland has deteriorated and diminished. However it has been recorded recently in lowland Derbyshire in open woodland that has developed on the site of old brick pits on acid clay, indicating that it has some ability to colonise new habitats.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Very widespread in cool and cold regions of Europe north to the high Arctic, reaching south to the mountains of S Europe. Turkey, Caucasus, and across northern and temperate Asia to Japan. N America south to Colorado. Northern S America (Colombia, Peru, Bolivia). Australia New Zealand.

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