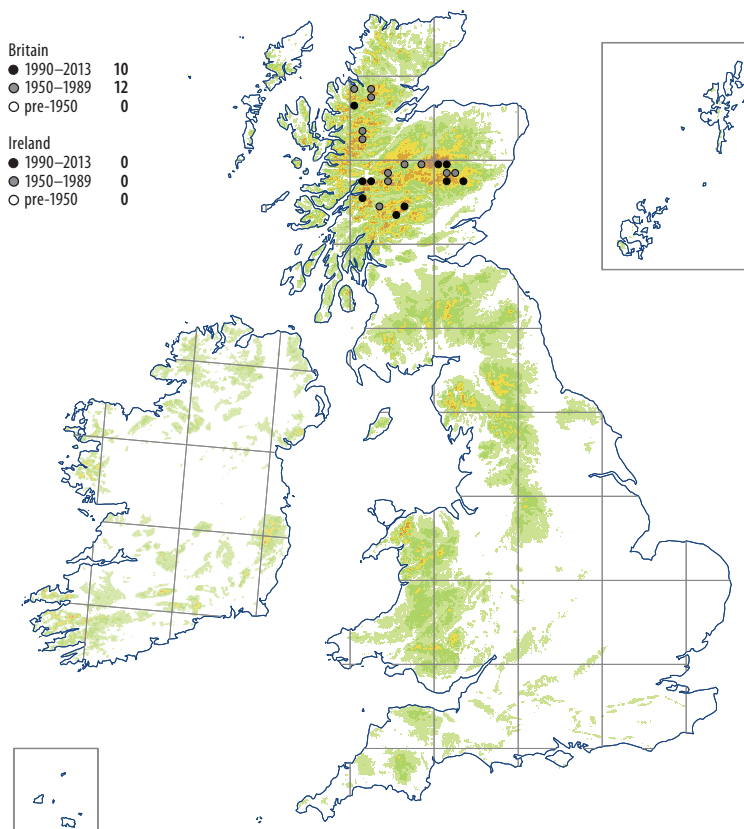


# Pseudoleskea patens



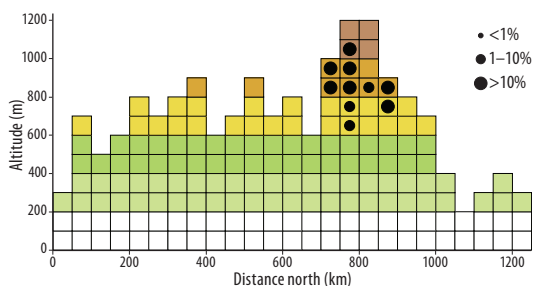
A moss of rock surfaces in the mountains, often in the interstices of scree but also occurring on more open rocks in gullies where snow lies late and on rocks on the margins of corrie lochs. In scree, it usually occurs where the rock is at least moderately base-rich but in the latter two habitats it seems indifferent to rock type, occurring on granite, acid granulite and schist, with an associated flora that varies from moderately calcicolous to markedly calcifuge. In scree common associates include *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *D. taxifolium*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Tritomaria quinquedentata*, *Andreaea rupestris*, *Hylocomiastrum umbratum*, *Hypnum callichroum*, *Kiaeria blyttii*, *Plagiothecium denticulatum* var. *obtusifolium*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Racomitrium heterostichum*, *R. lanuginosum*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* and *Sciuro-hypnum reflexum*. In areas of late snow-lie and on loch margins it

often occurs with a wide range of species including some of our rarest plants like *Bryum muehlenbeckii*, *Paraleucobryum longifolium*, *Sciuro-hypnum glaciale* and, at one site, *Saxifraga rivularis*, *S. cernua* and *S. cespitosa*. Altitudinal range: 540–1190 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional in snowbeds, very rare elsewhere, mature in spring or summer.

In the past it has often been confused with *Pseudoleskea incurvata*. Specimens in herbaria have not been systematically revised and the map may contain some errors.

European Boreal-montane. Widespread in Europe, to Iceland and N Scandinavia, becoming montane further south, reaching Portugal, Sardinia, N Italy (Tuscany) and the Balkan mountains; Urals, Caucasus. Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Siberia, northern Far East of Russia. Western and north-eastern N America.



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