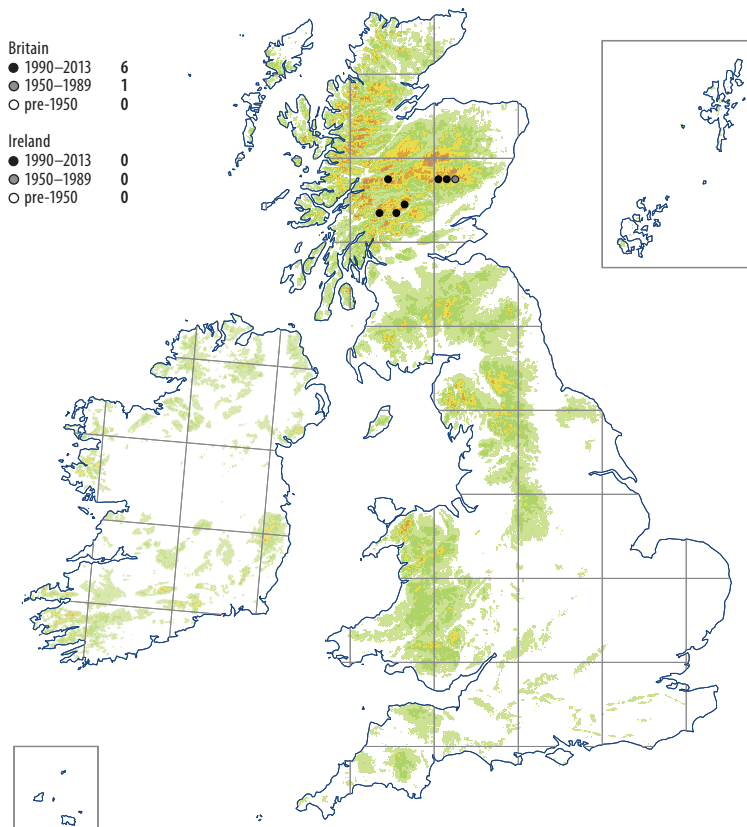


# *Ptychodium plicatum*



The typical habitat for this rare montane species is in the species-rich turf that occurs at the sheltered bases of calcareous crags and below large boulders in block scree. The plant occurs, often sparsely, within a mixture of other bryophytes and vascular plants but may form small pure wefts where it extends from the turf onto the rock face above. Such sites are presumably regularly flushed from above but dry out very quickly and almost all are south facing. Typical associates include *Alchemilla alpina*, *Carex atrata*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *Persicaria vivipara*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *S. oppositifolia*, *Silene acaulis*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Hypnum bambergeri*, *Mnium spinosum*, *M. thomsonii*, *Pseudoleskea incurvata*, *Racomitrium elongatum*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *R. triquetrus*, *Sanionia uncinata*, *Thuidium recognitum* and *Tortella tortuosa*.  
 Altitudinal range: 860–1190 m.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare in Britain and northern Europe, but occasional in the southern mountains, mature in autumn.

European Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, but absent from most of Finland and European Russia, becoming more montane in the south, reaching the Pyrenees and Cantabrian mountains, S Italy, the Balkan mountains (to N Greece), and east to the Carpathians, Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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