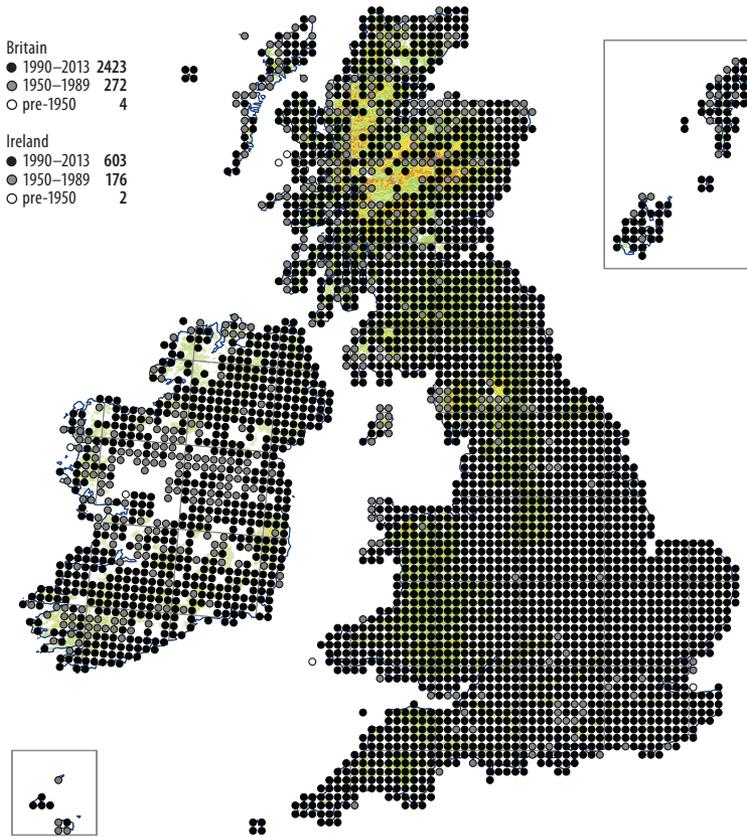


Kindbergia praelonga

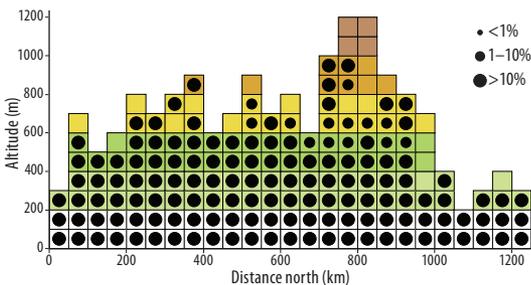


One of our most ubiquitous and abundant bryophytes, this species grows on fertile, acid, neutral and mildly basic substrates in a wide range of open to deeply shaded, damp and dry habitats. It is a common species of woodland and scrub, growing on the ground, on rotting wood, on tree bases, and as an epiphyte on the trunks and occasionally branches of trees, especially where these are sheltered and shaded (as on old elders). Its many other habitats include hedges and roadside banks, the sides of rivers, streams and ditches, short turf, *Juncus*- and *Molinia*-dominated marshes, boulders in streams, soil-covered rocks, earthy cliff ledges, and saltmarshes, sand dunes and sea cliffs. It is tolerant of nutrient enrichment and occurs in many artificial habitats such as damp, shaded walls, arable and fallow fields, waste ground and rubble. It is encountered even by non-bryologists as a common moss of lawns and grass verges,

although it is less recognisable to them than *Calliergonella cuspidata* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*. At high altitudes it grows in stabilised block scree, in montane tall-herb stands and in fern-dominated snowbed communities. It is usually absent from highly calcareous substrates and from peaty soils in moorland and heathland, but it can occasionally be found as straggling stems in sphagnum bogs. Altitudinal range: 0–1000 m.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent on well-grown plants in moist habitats, mature in winter.

Large branched plants occur in moist sheltered habitats and were at one time recognised as var. *stokesii*, but they intergrade with other forms and are not currently treated as distinct.



European Temperate. Widespread in cool-temperate parts of Europe, north to Iceland and C Fennoscandia, east to Ukraine and Caucasus, rare in the Mediterranean lowlands. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, eastern Asia, Japan. Western N America, C and S America. E and S Africa. Australia and New Zealand (perhaps introduced). Hedenäs (2010a) found that most specimens from America and China differed from each other and from western Eurasian material in their molecular sequencing and probably merit recognition as distinct species.

C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel