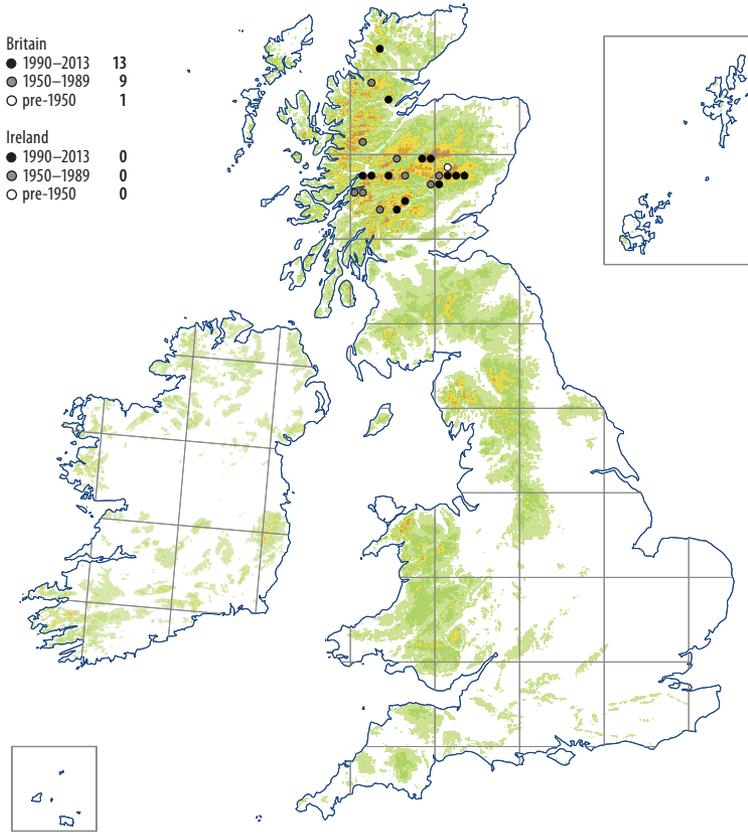


# Sciuro-hypnum reflexum



This inconspicuous species occurs in the interstices of block scree in sheltered montane habitats and seems to be indifferent to rock type. Like *Sciuro-hypnum glaciale*, it is commonly found on litter of *Athyrium distentifolium* in fern-dominated snowbed communities but it also occurs in upland birch woodland in Glen Clova. It usually occurs sparingly in a mixed weft of larger bryophytes such as *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Hylocomiastrum umbratum*, *Hypnum callichroum*, *Plagiothecium* spp. and occasionally *S. glaciale*, but on more strongly calcareous rock it can grow with *Heterocladium dimorphum*, *Pseudoleskea incurvata* and *S. starkei*. In northern Europe, *S. reflexum* occurs commonly in broadleaved woodland, and it has appeared in numerous woods in the Netherlands since the 1970s (Touw & Rubers, 1989; Bremer & Ott, 1990; BLWG, 2013). Its near absence from

woodland in Britain is therefore rather surprising. Altitudinal range: 500–1020 m.

Autoicous; capsules are uncommon but may be locally abundant.

*Sciuro-hypnum reflexum* belongs to a taxonomically difficult complex of species that was revised in Britain by Crundwell (1959a). Recently Draper & Hedenäs (2009) found molecular evidence supporting the recognition of *S. reflexum*, *S. starkei* and *S. glaciale* as distinct species, as well as two species not known in Britain (*S. dovrense* (Limpr.) Draper & Hedenäs, and *S. tromsoeense* (Kaurin & Arnell) Draper & Hedenäs). Scottish material of this complex has not yet been studied by molecular means in the light of Draper & Hedenäs' findings.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Widespread in Europe, from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south in the mountains to S Spain (Sierra Nevada), S Italy, Sicily and the Balkan mountains; Urals, Caucasus. Turkey, Kashmir, and widely across N Asia to Japan. N America, south to Idaho, Montana and Virginia.

G.P. Rothero

