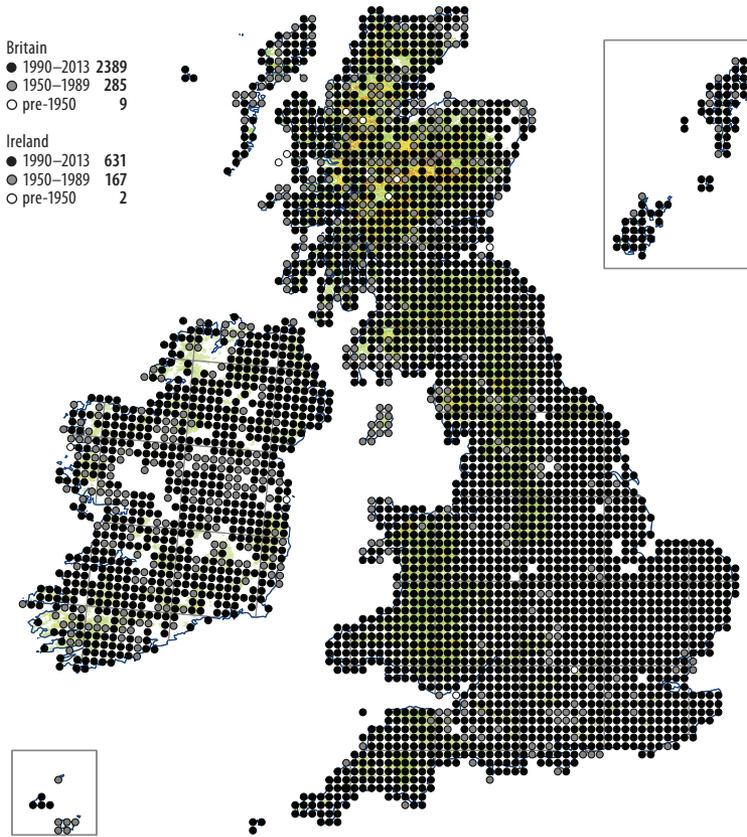


# Calliergonella cuspidata



A common moss occurring in a very wide variety of open or lightly shaded habitats, especially in turf that is either calcareous or wet, almost always in sites that are too base-rich for the growth of sphagnum. In the lowlands it is found by lakes and rivers, in springs, in marshes and fens, in lawns and grassy flushes, in dune slacks, on undercliffs, by ditches, in old quarries and on mine spoil, by tracks and roads, in churchyards and in woodland rides. It occasionally extends to moderately shaded places in wet woodland, sometimes colonising old logs. It is common and often abundant in dry chalk and limestone grassland where there is a little shelter, extending to well-drained and seasonally dry places in limestone scree, among boulders and on derelict walls. On moorland it is widespread in springs, seepages and *Juncus* flushes, and is one of the first species to appear in such places when there is even

slight base or mineral enrichment. It is much less common on the mountains, occurring on ledges with tall herbs, in small-sedge communities, flushed grassland and springs. Altitudinal range: 0–990 m.

Diocious; capsules are rare, produced mainly in base-rich marshes and fens, mature in spring.

Circumpolar Temperate. Common in most of Europe, rare in the Arctic (not in Svalbard), less frequent but widespread in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East, Iraq, Iran. In cool temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere north to the southern boreal zone, absent from most of the Arctic, extending south to Ethiopia in NE Africa, and the Himalaya and Yunnan (China) in Asia. N America, and scattered localities in C and S America (especially in the Andes). Also in Australia and New Zealand (possibly introduced).

M.O. Hill, rev. T.L. Blockeel

