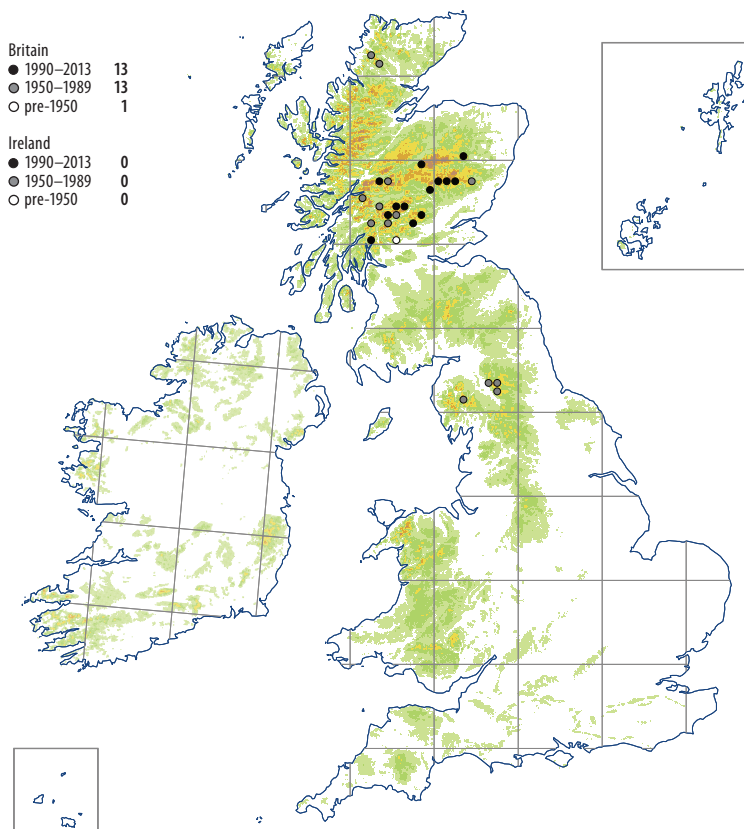


Oncophorus virens



This is a moss of damp calcareous turf in several distinct but related habitats. It is probably most frequent in the flushed turf below the foot of base-rich crags but also occurs in turf in areas of diffuse drainage below scree or below hollows where snow lies. In addition it also occurs in the turf at the edge of more open flushes, and sometimes on hummocks within the flush. In all these places it forms patches, sometimes quite large, in closed vegetation which is often dominated by vascular plants. Recorded associates are numerous and include *Armeria maritima*, *Carex capillaris*, *C. saxatilis*, *Minuartia sedoides*, *Persicaria vivipara*, *Salix herbacea*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Silene acaulis*, *Selaginella selaginoides*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Scapania degenii*, *Tritomaria polita*, *Campylium stellatum*, *Climacium dendroides*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Scorpidium revolvens*, and rarely *Carex atrofusca*,

Tayloria lingulata and *Timmia norvegica*. Altitudinal range: 600–1100 m.

Monoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. From Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south to Spain (Sierra Nevada and Pyrenees), Sardinia, the Alps, Apennines and the Balkan mountains; Urals and Caucasus. Turkey, C Asia and Himalaya, across N Asia to China and Japan. Widespread in N America, Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

