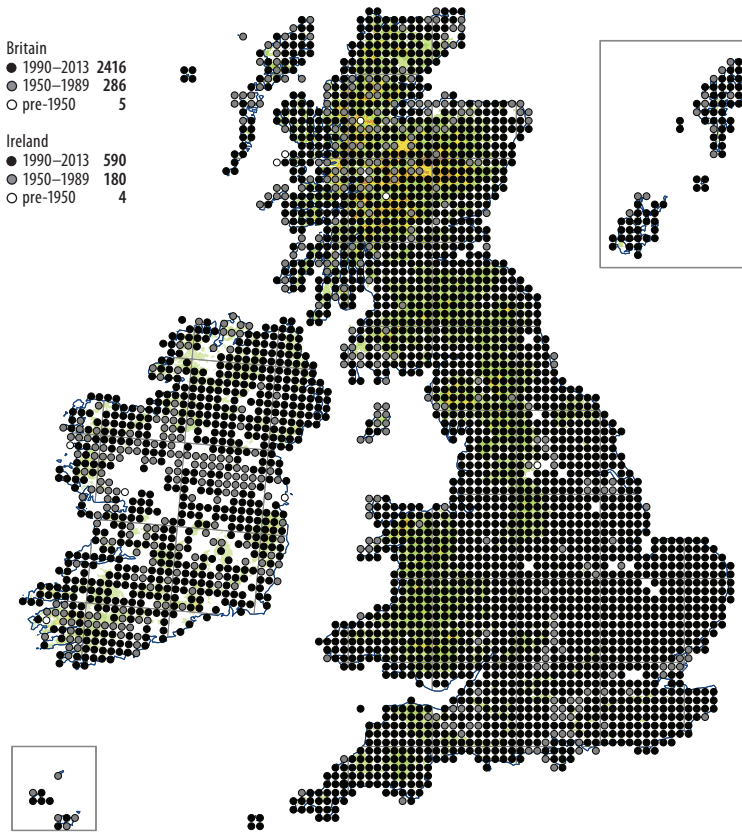


# Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus



A robust moss with a wide ecological tolerance, occurring on all but the most acid soils in a variety of grassy habitats, including sheep pastures, roadside and trackside verges, light woodland and scrub, dunes, streamsides, ditches and marshes. It also occurs among ericaceous shrubs and in flushed turf on heath and moorland. It is a very common species of lawns (where it attracts the attention and often the disapproval of gardeners!), as well as churchyards, parkland and other places that are regularly mown and not heavily fertilised, and likewise it occurs in low-lying unimproved pastures. Regular associates include *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Kindbergia praelonga* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. It ascends to high altitudes in mountain grassland and *Nardus* snowbeds, where associates include *Hylocomium splendens*, *Pleurozium schreberi* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*. It is favoured

by heavy grazing and mowing, but is invariably absent from reseeded and agriculturally improved fields. Altitudinal range: 0–1170 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare in the lowlands but more frequent in the north and west, mature in winter and early spring. Its ubiquity is remarkable, considering the rarity of capsules and lack of gemmae. Presumably it is dispersed vegetatively by stem and leaf fragments.

Plants from woodland often have a lax habit resembling *R. subpinnatus* and the separation of the two species is sometimes difficult. It is possible that there may be a few recording errors in woodland habitats, but with little impact on the overall accuracy of the map.

European Boreo-temperate. Widespread through most of Europe, including Iceland and Svalbard, but rare in the boreal and Arctic zones, and absent in the Mediterranean lowlands. Azores, Madeira. Turkey, Georgia to Kazakhstan. S Siberia, E Asia. Greenland, Newfoundland, north-western N America. Tasmania, New Zealand (introduced).

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