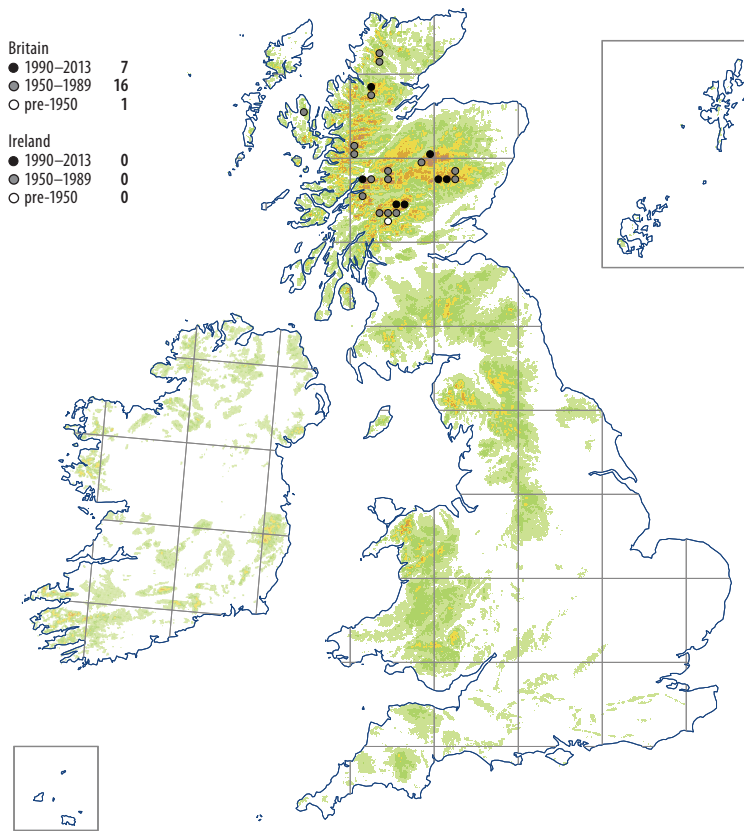


## *Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum*



This moss usually grows as a constituent of the bryophyte turf in the flushed grassland at the base of crags, in vegetated scree and at the margin of stony flushes high in the hills. Most of its sites are over rocks that are at least moderately base-rich and it is most frequent in the Ben Lawers area. However it is also locally abundant in flushed bouldery grassland over the granite in the Cairngorms corries. The most frequent associates are common species such as *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Scapania undulata*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Plagiothecium denticulatum* var. *obtusifolium*, *Racomitrium fasciculare*, *R. lanuginosum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, but less common species are often present including *Diplophyllum taxifolium*, *Herzogiella striatella*, *Sciuro-hypnum glaciale*, *S. reflexum* and rarely *Saxifraga rivularis*. Altitudinal range: 750–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain.

It is easily overlooked as stands are usually small and mixed with other species; its widespread but patchy distribution suggests that it may be a little under-recorded. The large proportion of pre-1990 records is almost certainly a reflection of the lack of recent recording in the areas involved.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. In Europe occurring widely from the boreal zone north to the low Arctic, including Iceland, and in subalpine habitats on mountains further south to the Pyrenees, N Italy and the Balkan mountains, east to the Urals. Turkey, Caucasus, Kazakhstan, and widely across N Asia to Japan. N America (south to Colorado), Aleutian Islands, Greenland.

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