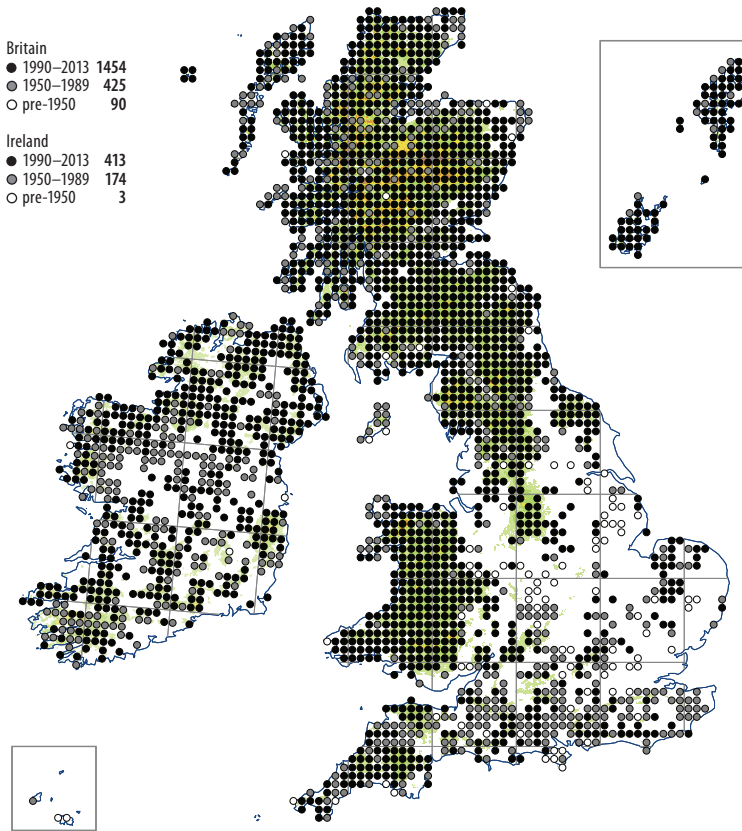


Hylocomium splendens



Common on acid substrates in the north and west, this species occurs under heather in dry or slightly damp moorland and heath associated with *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, and in a range of upland grasslands, often with *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*. In woodlands it is most frequent under a canopy of birch, pine, oak or birch-hazel growing on the ground and rocks with *Dicranum majus*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Polytrichastrum formosum* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*. It also occurs on damp shaded or sheltered cliff ledges, on dry, often degraded, blanket bog, between boulders in block litter and on block-strewn slopes, and in maritime heath and duneland. In many districts, however, it occurs more often as a mild calcicole in chalk and limestone grassland and on rocky banks, usually on deeper soils subject to leaching and

some local acidification, but locally abundant. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

During the industrial era it was largely restricted to calcareous substrates over much of the South Pennines and E and SE England, having been eliminated from its more acid sites by atmospheric pollution (Farmer *et al.*, 1992). There are now signs of recovery in some of these areas, and indeed it has been found as a colonist of scrub and young woodland on post-industrial sites such as former coal tips where it was certainly not present when these sites were under industrial use.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, mature in spring.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Very common in northern and mountainous parts of Europe, from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey. A sub-boreal species, widespread in cool and cold regions of the Northern Hemisphere north to 83°N on Ellesmere Island, south to Himalaya, Taiwan, and in N America to California and North Carolina. New Zealand.

H.J.B. Birks, rev. T.L. Blockeel

