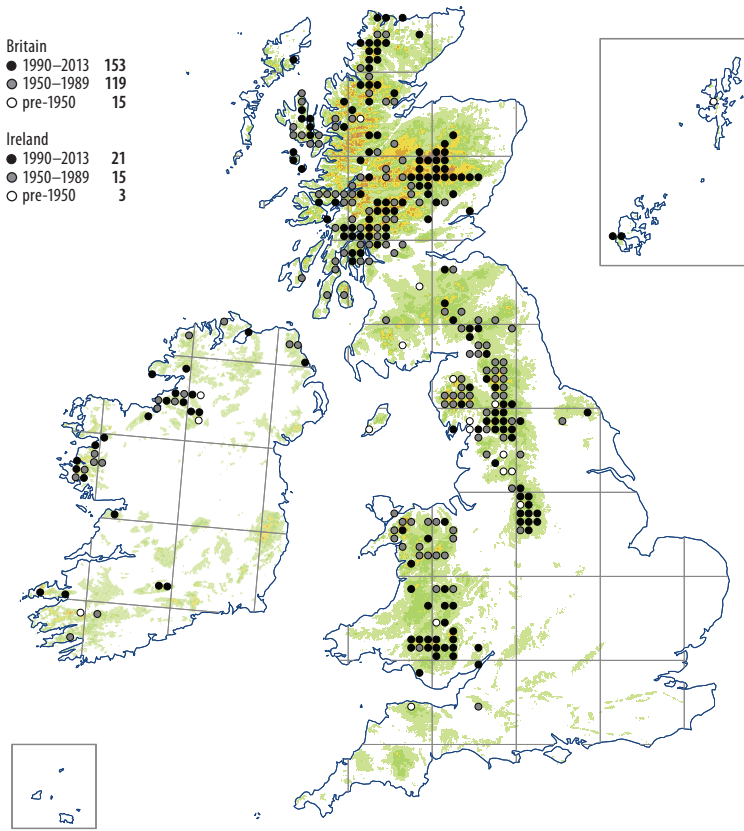


Orthothecium intricatum



In shiny, dark green patches often tinged with pink or purple, this species is confined to calcareous rocks, particularly limestone and calcareous mica-schists but also basic sandstone, mainly in the uplands. It is usually present in small quantity, or occasionally in larger mats, forming intricate patches in dry or damp, shaded crevices and under sheltered overhangs in north- to east-facing basic cliffs. It is also found in low-lying wooded ravines, growing in crevices on basic rock walls. It is usually associated with other calcicoles such as *Anoetangium aestivum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Isopterygiopsis pulchella*, *Mnium marginatum*, *M. stellare*, *Plagiobryum zieri* and *Pohlia cruda*. Altitudinal range: 0–1000 m.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, mature in summer.

It has probably now been lost from Devon and Somerset; Appleyard (1970) records that it was becoming desiccated and overgrown at its site near Wells in 1967. A form confined to the Yoredale limestones of N England has been distinguished as var. *abbreviatum*. Biometrically it is not distinct and appears to be a very stunted form of var. *intricatum*.

European Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in Europe north to Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia, south to the mountains of the northern Mediterranean region. N Africa (Algeria). Turkey, Caucasus, Georgia to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, Himalaya, W and S Siberia, Yakutia, Japan. Canada, Alaska, Greenland.

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