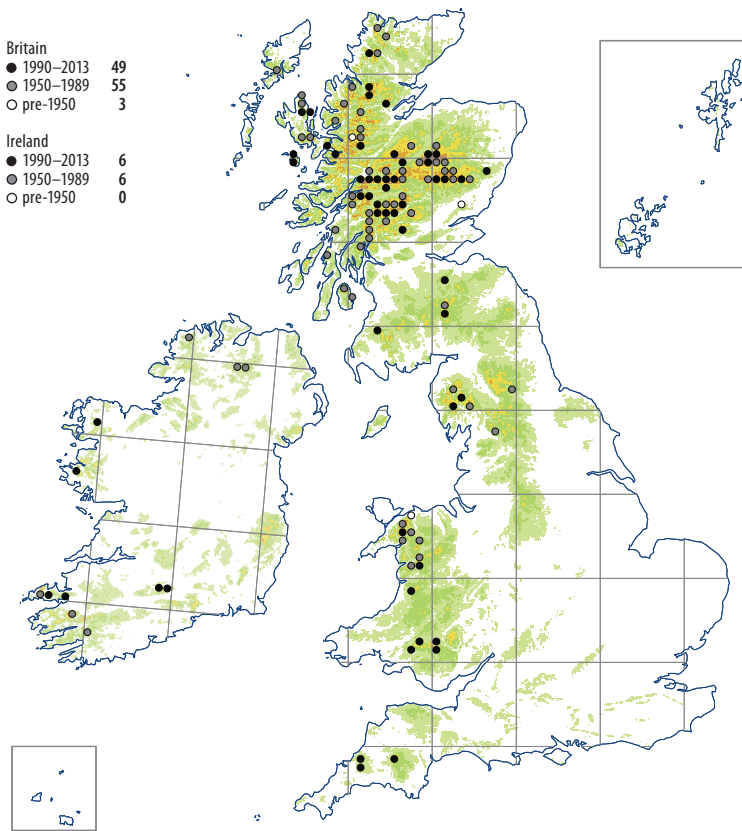


Plagiothecium denticulatum var. *obtusifolium*



This variety is generally confined to upland and montane habitats, typically among boulders, in rock crevices and on ledges. It is often a component of the vegetation of high-level boulder fields and late-lying snow patches, along with species such as *Lophozia opacifolia*, *Moerckia blyttii*, *Pohlia ludwigii* and large oceanic-montane liverworts. It also occurs in crevices on calcareous rock ledges, usually on north- or east-facing cliffs, with *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Isopterygiopsis pulchella* and other less widespread montane species, and in recesses between boulders in stable screes. It is also recorded from a wide range of less base-rich habitats, often with *Diplophyllum albicans*, under ferns in scree, in gullies, on stream banks and loch margins, and at lower altitudes on rocks in woodland, exceptionally on the base of a beech tree in a plantation. In S Wales its principal habitat is on base-poor sandstone

crag, sometimes where slightly flushed, and in SW England it grows in the chinks and crevices of granite tors. Altitudinal range: 260–1200 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer and autumn. Gemmae have not been recorded.

A taxonomically difficult segregate of uncertain status, encompassing two different forms in Britain and Ireland (Smith, 2004). There have probably been inconsistencies in recording, but not affecting the overall distribution.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. N and C Europe, south to Spain, Italy and Bulgaria, east to Ukraine. Turkey, Iran. Its wider distribution is uncertain because it is not always recognised as a distinct taxon. Reported from NW China and Japan. It is treated as a synonym of *Plagiothecium denticulatum* in N America.

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