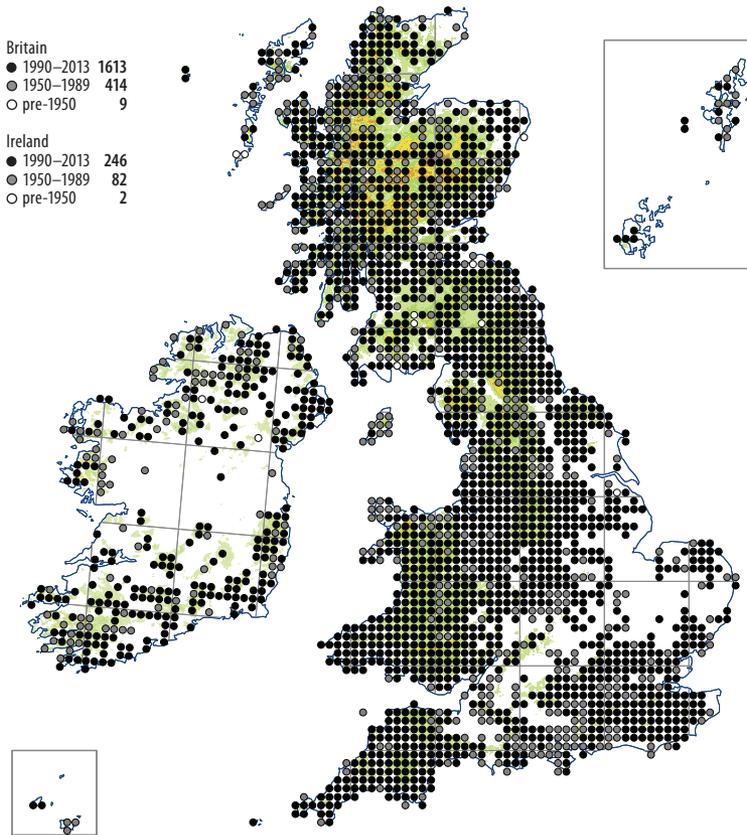


Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans



A common species of acid habitats in woods and on moorland, often in extensive, pure patches. It occurs on loamy, sandy and peaty soil in woods and on sheltered banks, and commonly also on and among rocks, both on raw humus and over bare surfaces. In woodlands it often grows on the soil around tree bases, and it sometimes colonises tree stumps and old logs. In heathy acid grassland a frequent habitat is around the bases of grass tussocks, whilst peatland populations often carpet the sides of *Molinia* tussocks. In southern and eastern districts it is nearly confined to shaded sites, but occurs in more open places in the west and north. It is tolerant of heavy shade and sometimes grows in large patches under dense shrub cover, even under *Rhododendron*; it is able to grow, in attenuated form, in deep dark holes in block scree and on rocky banks. *Calypogeia* spp., *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Dicranella heteromalla*

and *Mnium hornum* are regular associates. On base-rich formations it is confined to niches where there is some accumulation of peat or humus. Altitudinal range: 0–950 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rather rare, mature in spring and summer. Propagules, in the form of reduced axillary branchlets, are frequent and sometimes abundant.

Suboceanic Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe from S Portugal north to Iceland and N Norway, most common in the north-west and becoming progressively rarer to the east, reaching Ukraine and Caucasus, and rare southwards in the Mediterranean region, to Sicily and N Greece. Macaronesia. Russian Far East. Western and eastern N America, Hawaii. Reported from southern S America and the Falkland Islands.

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