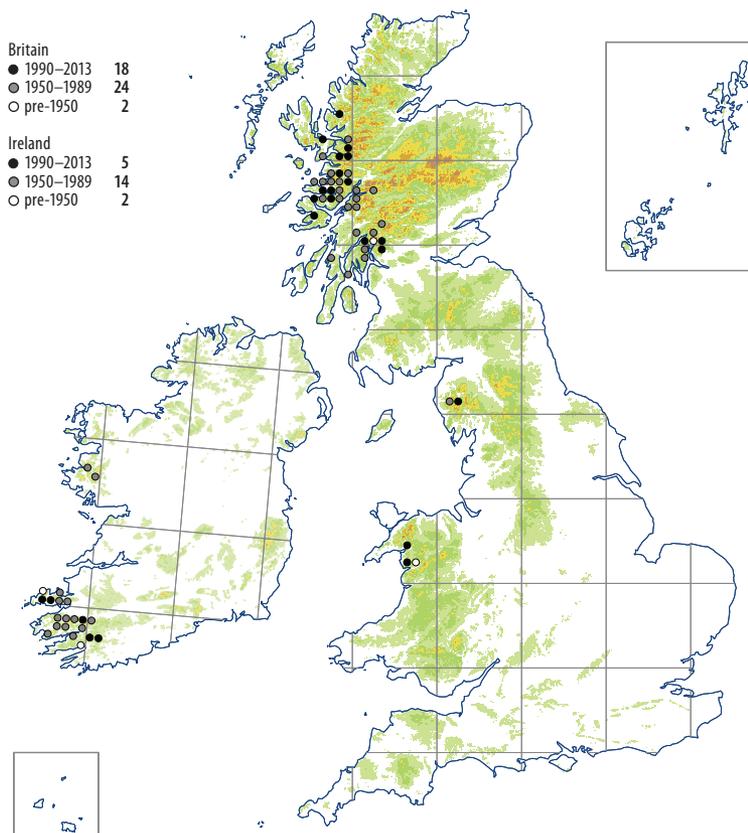


Hageniella micans

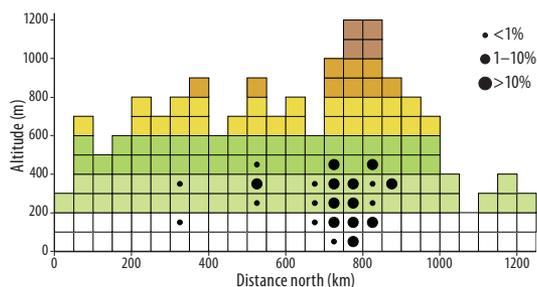


Most stands of *Hageniella micans* have a very precise habitat. They occur as flat patches on the inclined faces of boulders buried in soil on steep slopes with the face of the rock at much the same angle as the slope so that surface water flowing down the slope runs over the rock during rain. Most sites are in woodland or ravines with a good canopy cover but it also occurs on shaded rocks at the base of steep or overhanging crags. The rocks are at least moderately acid. The patches tend to be pure but it grows close to and can be mixed with *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Scapania umbrosa*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Heterocladium heteropterum* var. *heteropterum*, *Hycomium armoricum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Loeskeobryum brevirostre*, *Plagiothecium undulatum* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*. Altitudinal range: 15–490 m.

Many, if not most, sites depend on disturbance to keep the rock surface clear of larger mosses and litter and this is most often provided by grazing animals and, occasionally, humans. Even so, stands can come and go quite quickly on any one site and population size often varies accordingly and there is some evidence of a decline in some Scottish populations. It has been re-found recently in Wales after a long interval.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain and Ireland. The plant seems quite mobile, presumably by fragmentation and transport by wind or animals.

Oceanic Temperate. Norway, France, Belgium, SW Germany. Eastern N America, British Columbia, Mexico and C America (Honduras). In Asia from India and SW China to Borneo and Philippines. Hawaii.



G.P. Rothero