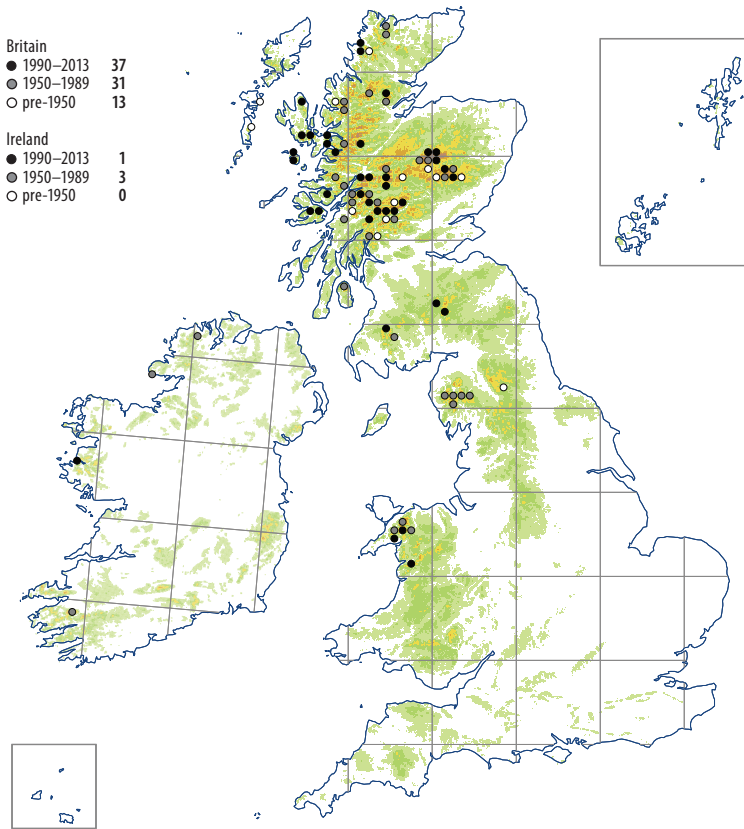


Arctoa fulvella



Usually forming small, dense cushions in crevices of broken crags in the mountains. It is most frequent in the higher hills in areas where snow lies late but can also occur quite low down on some western hills. It seems to be indifferent to rock type, occurring on granite in corries in the Cairngorms but also on more base-rich schists in the Ben Alder range, on Aonach Beag, and on the Tertiary volcanic rocks of the Inner Hebrides. It occurs in a very open community on these crags with a range of associated species including common plants like *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Pohlia nutans*, *Racomitrium heterostichum* and *R. lanuginosum*, but also with more markedly montane species such as *Gymnomitrium concinnatum*, *Marsupella alpina*, *Kiaeria falcata* and *K. starkei*. Altitudinal range: 320–1200 m.

There is a large proportion of hectads with no post-1990 records but there is no reason to believe that there has been any real decline, at least in Scotland. Recent under-recording is a more likely explanation. It is easily overlooked in the absence of mature capsules.

European Arctic-montane. Found in nearly all the C and N European mountain ranges from the Pyrenees, Alps and Carpathians north to the Arctic. Urals, Siberia, Russian Far East, China, Japan. Western and eastern N America, south to Oregon, Idaho and New York; Greenland. Tierra del Fuego.

G.P. Rothero

Autoicous; capsules are usually present, mature in summer.

