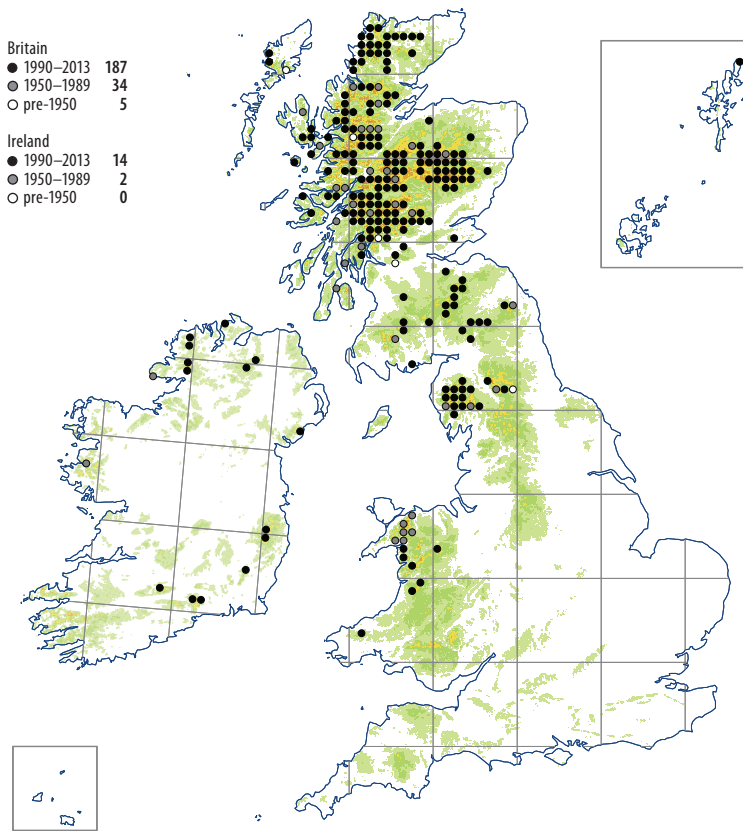


# Kiaeria blyttii



**A** typical species of the tops and sides of boulders in scree slopes and at the base of crags and also common on boulders above the inundation zone on rocky rivers in the mountains and on similar sites on loch margins. It seems to avoid limestone and the most strongly calcareous schists and it is also uncommon on hard acid rocks like quartzite. It is most common in the mountains, perhaps because its preferred habitat is more frequent there, but it occurs at low altitudes in the north-west of Scotland. In its open habitat it has a variety of associated species, the most common of which are *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Gymnomitrium obtusum*, *Andreaea rupestris*, *Dicranum fuscescens*, *Grimmia ramondii*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Racomitrium fasciculare* and *R. sudeticum*, but it also occurs with some less common species, including *Tetralophozia setiformis*, *Cynodontium jenneri*, *C. strumiferum* and *Dicranoweisia crispula*. Altitudinal range: 30–1160 m.

Coverage of *Kiaeria blyttii* is much improved since the 1991–1994 Atlas, and better recording has extended its range considerably to the south in S Wales and Ireland, and northwards in Shetland. Even in NW Scotland its frequency is much better documented.

Autoicous; capsules are usually present, mature in summer. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

European Boreo-arctic montane. In Europe from the Arctic, including Iceland and Svalbard, south to the mountains of C Portugal, the Pyrenees, N Italy, Bulgaria and the Carpathians; Urals, Caucasus. Siberia to the Asian Far East, China and Japan. Northern N America.

G.P. Rothero

