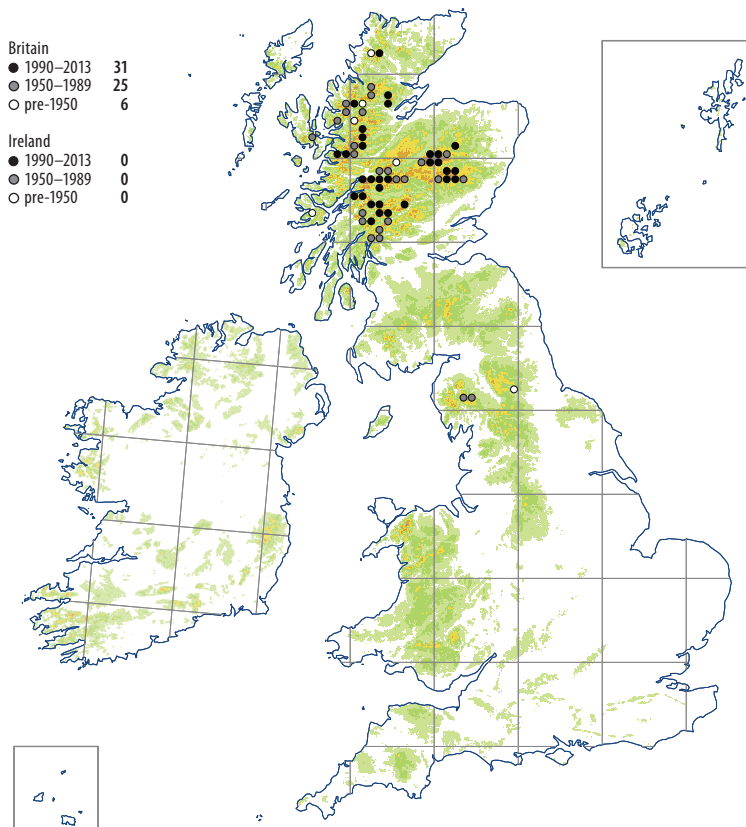


## *Kiaeria starkei*



**A** characteristic species of NVC community U11 (the *Polytrichastrum sexangulare*–*Kiaeria starkei* snowbed) that occurs where the snow lies latest into the summer. Here it is most frequent on the gravels that accumulate on slopes that are irrigated by snow-melt and is less frequent on the drier more exposed sites favoured by *Kiaeria falcata*. It also commonly occurs in the interstices of scree and on the damp mineral soil on ledges of crags and is occasionally washed down to lower altitudes, where it occurs on gravels by burns. Associates include other typical chionophilous species like *Marsupella brevissima*, *Pleurocladula albescens*, *Conostomum tetragonum* and *Polytrichastrum sexangulare* as well as more widespread species such as *Juncus trifidus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Salix herbacea*, *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Oligotrichum hercynicum* and *Racomitrium heterostichum*. Altitudinal range: 370–1340 m.

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 Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. In Europe from the Arctic south to the mountains of C Portugal, the Pyrenees, N Italy and the Balkans; Urals, Caucasus. Georgia, Azerbaijan, Siberia, Asian Far East, China, Japan. Northern N America. Records from the Southern Hemisphere are considered doubtful.

G.P. Rothero

