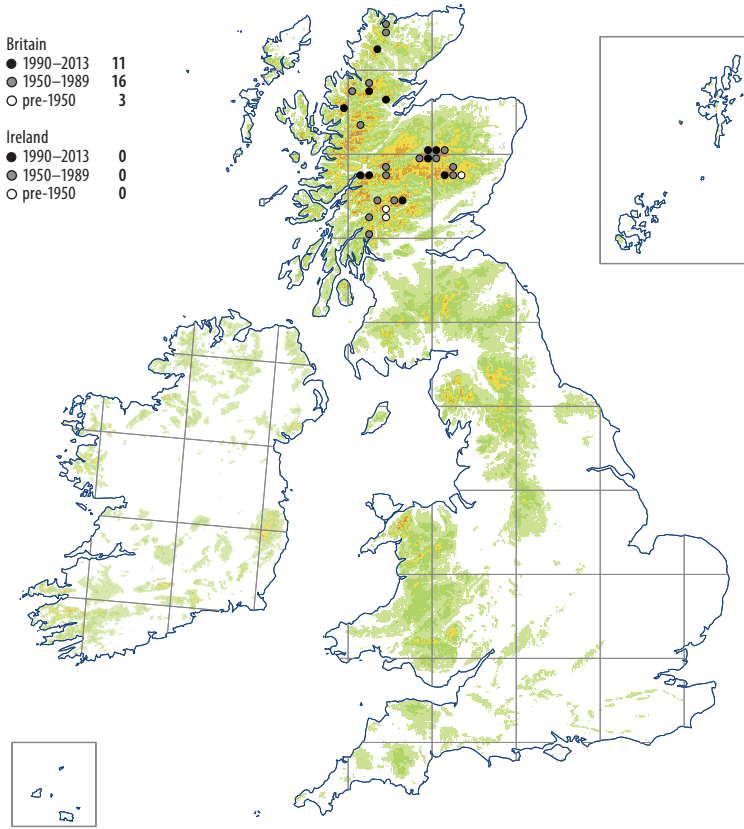


Kiaeria glacialis



A species of areas of late snow lie high in the hills but not normally forming part of the same snowbed community as *Kiaeria falcata* and *K. starkei*. It is most frequent as cushions amongst scree or on the ledges of broken crags in north- or north-east-facing corries but can also occur in sheltered spots on plateaux and ridges. In the large areas of late snow-lie in the Cairngorms it can form extensive, linear patches along the sides of melt-water channels. Associated species are usually common upland plants like *Carex bigelowii*, *Nardus stricta*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Marsupella emarginata*, *Mylia taylorii*, *Oligotrichum hercynicum*, *Polytrichastrum alpinum*, *Racomitrium fasciculare* and *R. lanuginosum*, but also more strictly chionophilous species like *Kiaeria starkei*, *Pohlia ludwigii* and *Polytrichastrum sexangulare*. Altitudinal range: 680–1330 m.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional.

It is easily overlooked as *Dicranum scoparium*, particularly in the absence of capsules, and is probably under-recorded. However the overall range is likely to be accurate as mapped.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Iceland, the Faeroes, Svalbard, Scandinavia, N Finland and Arctic Russia; Czech Republic. A species of the Arctic and of mountains in the boreal zone. N Urals, N Asia, China. Arctic N America, Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

