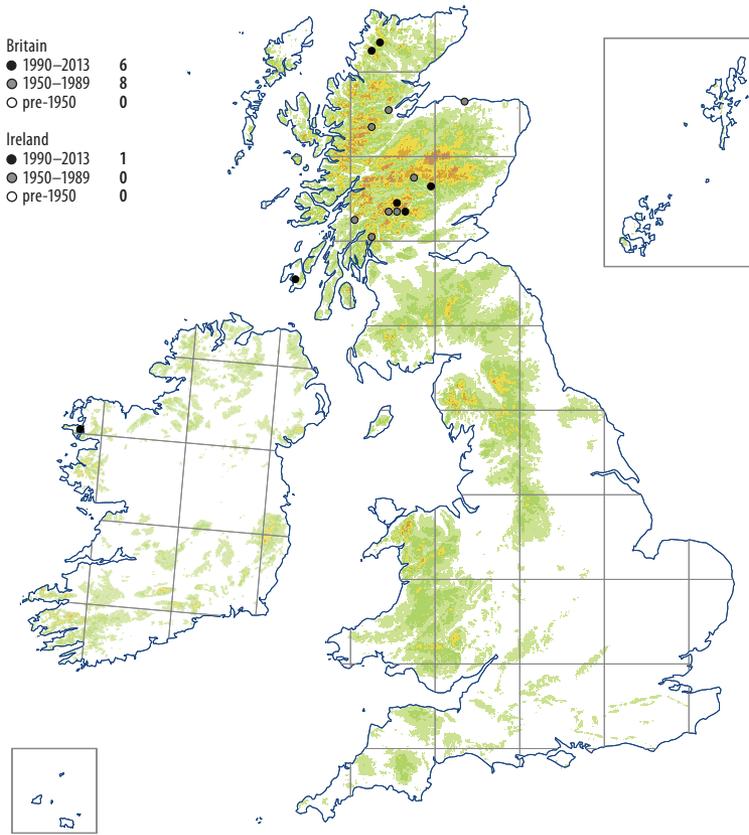


Aongstroemia longipes



A plant of open communities on damp, neutral or slightly basic sandy soils. It was first recorded in Scotland in 1964 from disturbed soil below a Highland dam, growing in large quantity with numerous associates that included *Dicranella varia* and *Fossombronia incurva* (Crundwell, 1965). Subsequently it has been recorded from disused quarries, gravel pits, shingle beds, moorland tracks and unsealed roads, in habitats that sometimes also support *Haplomitrium hookeri* and *Riccardia incurvata*. Its sole Irish record is from sparsely vegetated sand on disturbed ground in an old sand quarry, where nearby species included *Bryum argenteum*, *B. dichotomum*, *Pohlia annotina* and *P. filum*. Altitudinal range: 20–520 m.

Most records date from the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The low number of recent records should not be interpreted as a

decline. *Aongstroemia* is easily overlooked because of its small size and its resemblance in the field to depauperate plants of *Anomobryum* and *Pohlia*. Hesselbo (1918) reported that in Iceland it grew “most frequently as single specimens scattered among other mosses” and that most specimens were not seen until after the material had been brought back from the field. When present in small quantity it is unlikely to be found except by conscious searching in suitable habitats.

Dioicous; capsules are known from only one British locality, mature in summer. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel, 2007), but vegetative propagation also occurs by means of fragile stems, which sometimes results in populations of one sex only.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Mainly in boreal and Arctic Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, south to the Alps. Arctic Russia, Siberia and the Russian Far East. Western N America, Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland.

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