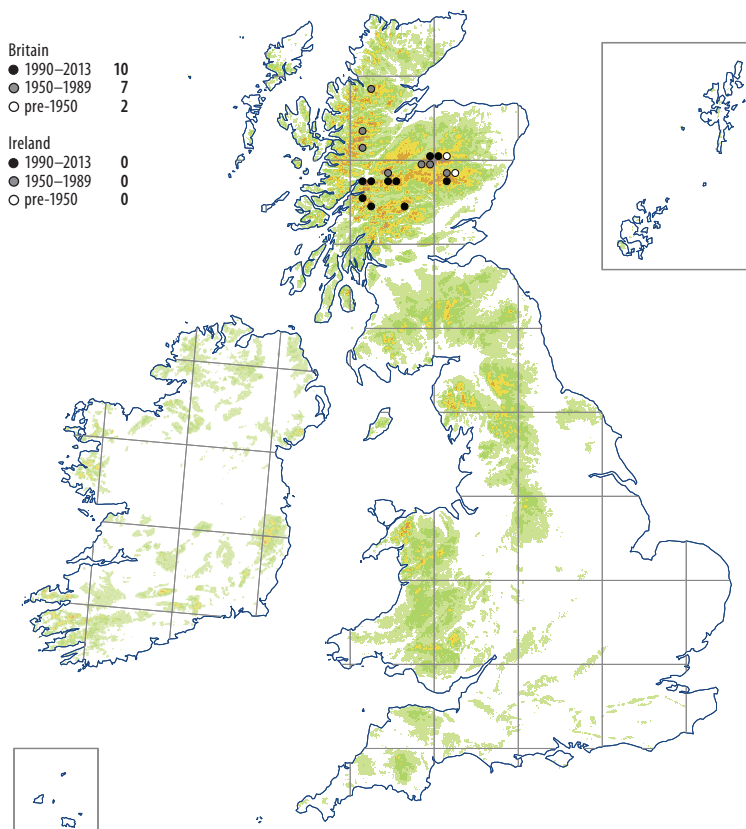
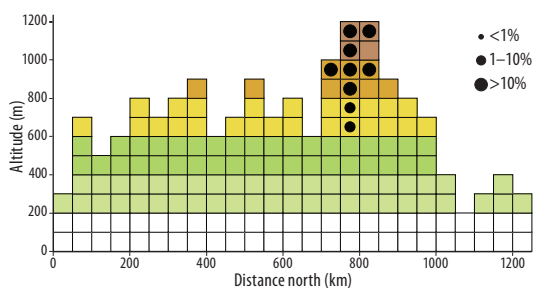


## Sciuro-hypnum glaciale



This moss occurs as straggling, yellow-green stems in the crevices of sheltered block scree in the mountains. It is particularly characteristic of fern-dominated communities with *Athyrium distentifolium* in north- and east-facing corries where snow patches linger well into the summer, and is often to be found growing on the fern litter. Frequent associates are *Barbilophozia floerkei*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Hylocomiastrum umbratum*, *Hypnum callichroum* and *Plagiothecium* spp. Where snow cover is especially prolonged, it may occur in finer scree and on more open rock faces, with *Diplophyllum taxifolium*, *Kiaeria starkei* and *Pseudoleskea patens*. Altitudinal range: 730–1190 m.

Autoicous; capsules are generally rare but more frequent where snow cover is very persistent.



This moss was confused with *Sciuro-hypnum starkei* in Britain until Scottish specimens were revised by Crundwell (1959a). The separation of the two species remains difficult and the mapped distribution may contain some errors.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Widespread in Europe, from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south in the mountains to S Spain (Sierra Nevada), the Apennines and Balkan mountains; N Urals, Caucasus. Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, S Siberia, Kamchatka, China. North-eastern N America (rare), Greenland. Southern S America, South Georgia, Antarctica.

G.P. Rothero

▼ Garbh Coire, Ben Alder, Westerness, 2004. Gordon Rothero

