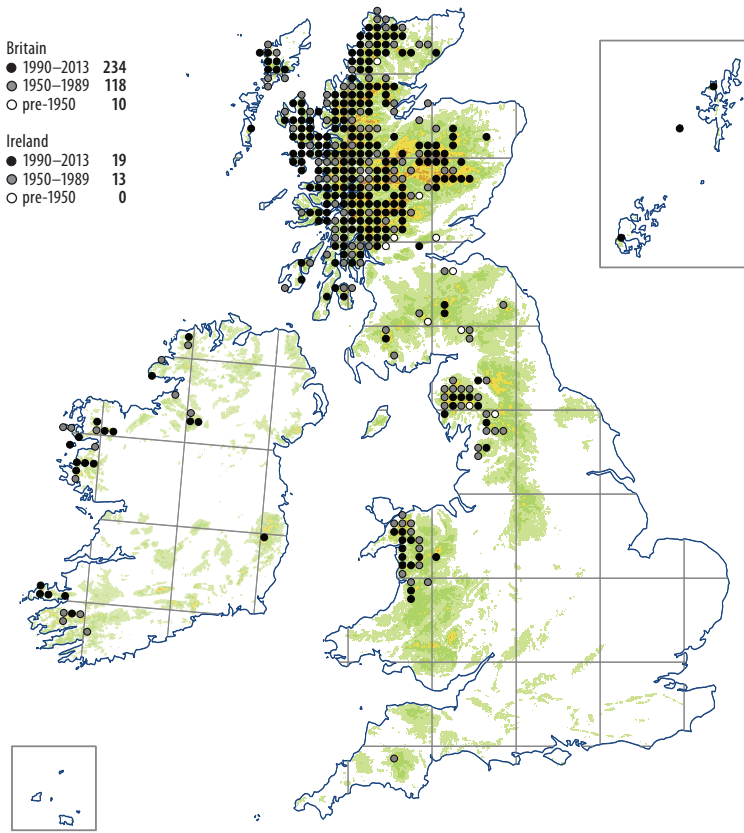


Anastrepta orcadensis



A distinctive species growing as pure patches or as scattered stems amongst other bryophytes in mixed turf in subalpine *Betula* and *Pinus* woodlands; also frequent on open slopes, mostly in western subalpine to alpine districts, often under *Calluna* or in damp block screes, favouring moist shaded or open north- to east-facing aspects. In turfs it is associated with a variety of robust bryophytes such as *Bretelia chrysocoma*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Pleurozium schreberi* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*. In rocky woodlands and ravines it often grows with *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* and *Sphagnum quinquefarium*. It is a common component of northern oceanic montane mixed hepatic mats with *Anastrophyllum donnianum* and similar associates. More rarely it grows amongst sphagnum or on hummocks in blanket bogs. Altitudinal range: 20–850 m.

Dioicous; male plants and perianths are occasional, sporophytes are unknown in Britain; gemmae are common, often abundant in sheltered woodland habitats.

Easily missed when present as sparse stems growing through more robust bryophytes, and probably overlooked in some sites towards the edges of its range.

Suboceanic Boreal-montane. In Europe, mainly found in cool oceanic areas of the north and north-west; locally in the high central and eastern mountains. Worldwide it is a disjunct species in cool temperate high-rainfall areas: Himalaya, western China, Taiwan, Japan, Aleutians; north-western N America, Hawaii.

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