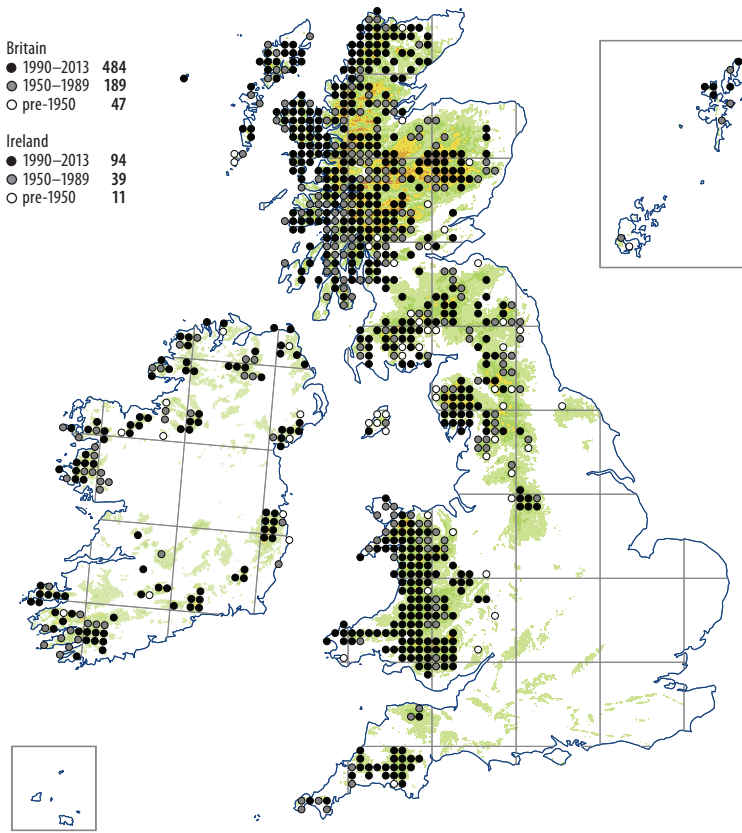


Andreaea rothii



The commonest species of *Andreaea* with a nerve, this species forms black to dark brown cushions on more or less exposed, periodically wet, acid rock (including granite, sandstone, shale, slate, gabbro). The cushions often coalesce to form extensive mats on seeping, gently sloping slabs. Often associated with *A. rupestris*, and also with other saxicolous bryophytes, including *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Gymnomitrium* spp., *Grimmia trichophylla*, *Hedwigia stellata* and *Racomitrium* spp. Generally distributed on siliceous rocks irrespective of altitude, it tends to be less frequent than *A. rupestris* in northern England and Scotland, but more so in SW England, Wales and Ireland. Altitudinal range: 10–1340 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in spring and early summer.

Two subspecies, subsp. *rothii* and subsp. *falcata*, are recognised in Europe. The latter is by far the more frequent of the two generally, but subsp. *rothii* appears to be almost as frequent as subsp. *falcata* in Ireland. However, intermediates are common, and the two subspecies are here mapped together. Contrary to the comment in the 1991–1994 Atlas, this species does not seem to be greatly over-recorded in western Scotland, and is certainly much commoner there than *A. megistospora*.

European Boreo-temperate. Widespread in W and C Europe from Arctic Scandinavia (though absent from Iceland and Svalbard), east to the Ural mountains and Georgia, south to the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula, and reported from Sardinia and Serbia, but much rarer in the south and east. Also in Greenland and widespread in N America.

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