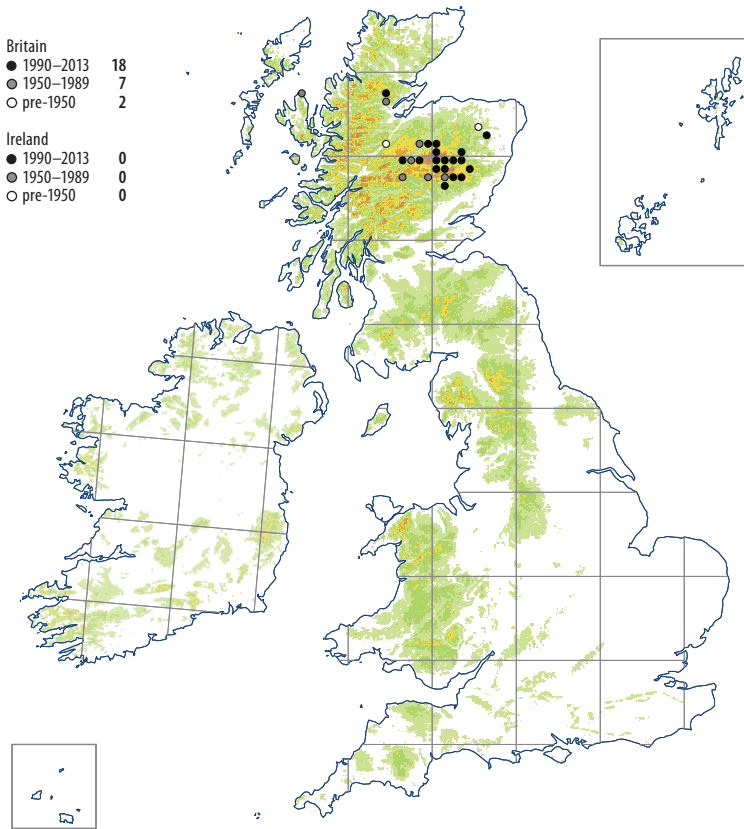


Cynodontium strumiferum



Almost all the sites for this species are on the faces or tops of rocks in the interstices of large block scree and only very rarely does it occur in crevices in rock faces. It favours the bigger gaps under the larger boulders rather than the more open crevices which tend to be dominated by *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. There are patchy cushions of other species in this habitat including relatively common species like *Barbilophozia hatcheri*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Tetralophozia setiformis*, *Andreaea rupestris*, *Kiaeria blyttii*, *Racomitrium heterostichum* and *R. sudeticum*, but also *Cynodontium jeneri*, *Grimmia incurva* and rarely *Anastrophyllum saxicola* and *C. polycarpon*. Altitudinal range: 285–700 m.

All records are based on capsule-bearing plants: specimens without capsules can hardly be distinguished from *C. polycarpon*. Old British records were often erroneous, being based on other strumiferous mosses, notably *C. jeneri* and *Kiaeria blyttii*. The relatively large number of new sites since the 1991–1994 Atlas suggests that this species is still under-recorded in the eastern Highlands of Scotland.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. In Europe extending north to the high Arctic, southwards through Fennoscandia, Latvia and Estonia to the Pyrenees, Alps and the Balkans; Urals, Caucasus, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Asiatic Russia, Japan. In N America south to the mountains of Colorado, Greenland.

Autoicous; capsules are usually present.

G.P. Rothero

