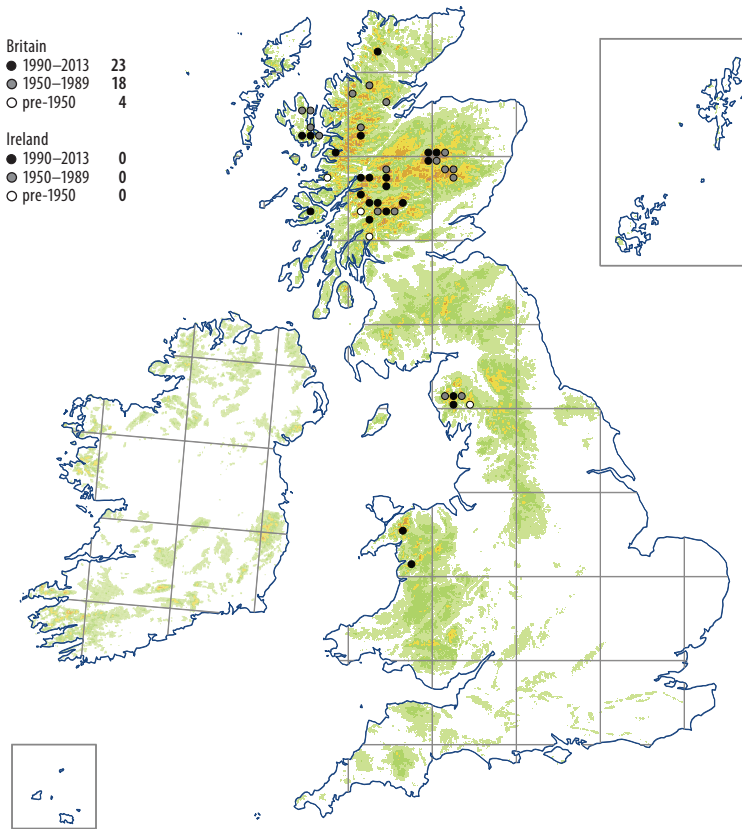


Marsupella stableri



Grows in distinctive purplish-brown or coppery mats on periodically flushed montane acid rock walls, boulders and gravelly soil, usually on north- to east-facing slopes, and often in gullies and late-snow areas. Occasionally it occurs on basic rocks such as basalt. On rocks the patches are often pure, but frequent associates include *Anthelia julacea*, *Diplophyllum albicans* and *Gymnomitrium obtusum*. In exposed stony or gravelly sites, populations are more commonly mixed with other small bryophytes such as *Anthelia juratzkana*, *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Ditrichum zonatum* and *Oligotrichum hercynicum*. Altitudinal range: 235–1200 m.

Dioicous; usually fertile, sporophytes are very rare, August to September. Female plants are at least as common as male in England and Wales, but are unknown in Scotland (Paton, 1999).

Suboceanic Arctic-montane. World distribution uncertain because of confusion with *M. boeckii*, but also reported from British Columbia.

D.G. Long

Formerly regarded as a variety of *Marsupella boeckii*, but most populations are easily distinguished (Paton, 1999).

