

Flora Protection Order - bryophytes

Acrobolbus wilsonii

Status: Vulnerable; listed on the Flora Protection Order

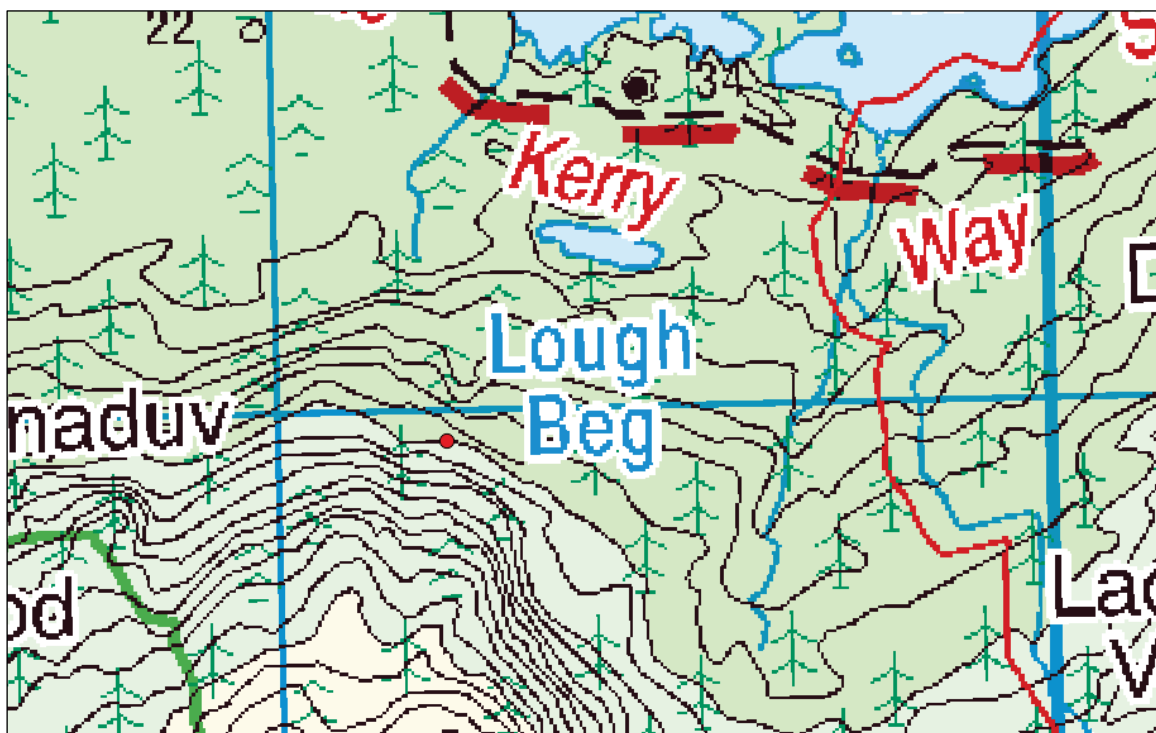
Location: Derrycunihy Wood, Co. Kerry

Species Records

Taxon	Vice County number	Taxon Site	Locality / habitat	Grid Reference	Date	Recorder	Protected site
<i>Acrobolbus wilsonii</i>	01	13	Gallavally; above Lough Beg	V8921680962	2014.10.23	Rory Hodd	SAC000365

Recorded by Rory Hodd in 2014. This locality has been assigned to the larger taxon-site Derrycunihy Wood.

Location (1:50,000 Discovery map)



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Field Data Sheet – Survey of FPO Bryophytes in Cork & Kerry 2014

Species <i>Acrobolbus wilsonii</i>	County Kerry	6" Map Kerry Sheet 74	Discovery Map 78
Locality/ Site name Gallavally Wood (east), S of L. Beg	Vice-county (No.) South Kerry (H1)	SAC/NHA 000365 Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment	
Grid ref (GPS, National Grid) V8921680962(±13)	2005 Aerial Photo O6223-A	Recorder(s) R.L. Hodd	
Elevation (m) 120	Solid geology Sandstone	Survey date 23/10/2014	
Site description	<i>A. wilsonii</i> was recorded from a flushed rockface in humid rocky <i>Quercus petraea</i> woodland, on a steep slope, with a stream running through it.		
Population description	Scattered shoots of <i>A. wilsonii</i> are growing through and over other bryophytes on a vertical, mildly base-rich rockface.		
Associated species	<i>A. wilsonii</i> is associated at this location with <i>Saccogyna viticulosa</i> , <i>Plagiochila exigua</i> , <i>Lejeunea patens</i> , <i>Trichostomum brachydontium</i> and <i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i> .		
Vegetation (Fossitt, 2000)	ER1 Exposed siliceous rock		
Current management	Deer grazing is moderately intense, little human impact in vicinity.		
Threats	There are few specific threats to this population, if <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> were to encroach, this population may be threatened.		
Conservation measures	The habitat should be kept in good condition, and clear of <i>Rhododendron</i> .		
Ownership	This site is located within the Killarney National Park.		
Access	Access is from path between Derrycunihy and Lord Brandon's Cottage, crossing rough area of wet heath and bog to reach woodland.		
Other remarks			

Additional GPS readings for the species

National Grid Letter	Easting	Northing	Comments

Synonymous habitat/vegetation types :

First record and other comments:

This is the first record of *A. wilsonii* from this site, although it has previously been recorded from the nearby Derrycunihy wood.

References: Hodd, R.L. 2014. *Survey of Flora Protection Order bryophytes in Cork and Kerry (H1-H5)*. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service. Dublin.

Photographs:



Photograph 1: Location of *Acrobolbus wilsonii*, indicated by red arrow, on a flushed rockface in humid woodland at Gallavally.



Photograph 2: Mildly base-rich rockface, on which scattered *A. wilsonii* grows at Gallavally.

Maps and Aerial Photographs:

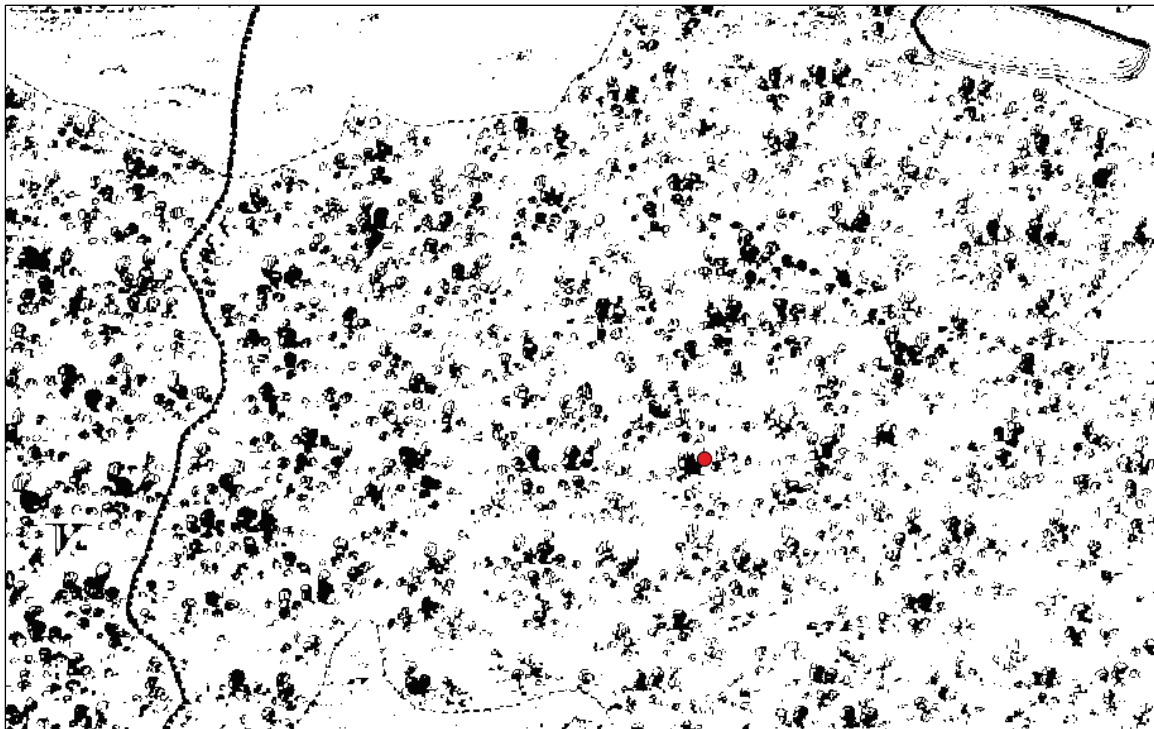


Figure 2: 6-inch map showing the location of *Acrobolbus wilsonii* (marked by red dot) at Gallavally (Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No EN 0059214 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland).

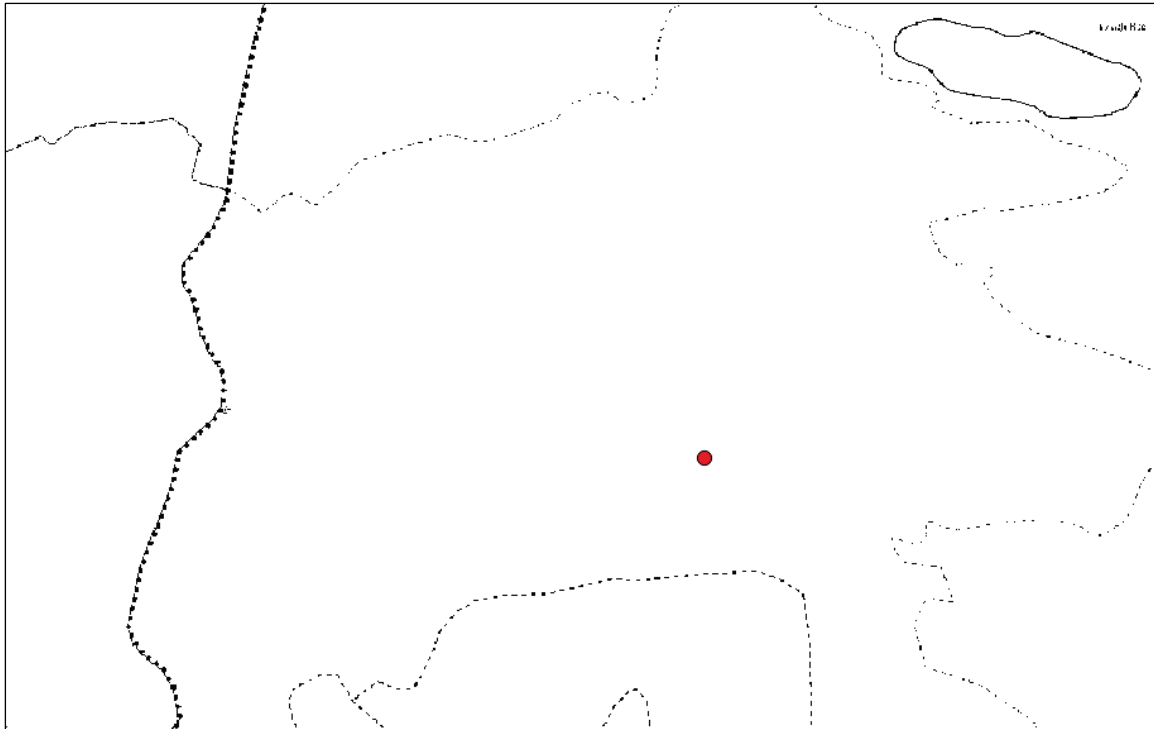


Figure 3: 1:5,000 map showing the location of *Acrobalbus wilsonii* (marked by red dot) at Gallavally (Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No EN 0059214 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland).



Figure 4: 2005 aerial photo showing the location of *Acrobalbus wilsonii* (marked by red dot) at Gallavally (Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No EN 0059214 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland).



Figure 5: Bing aerial photo showing the location of *Acrobolbus wilsonii* (marked by red dot) at Gallavally.

Management & Conservation

General

- Requires more or less constant humidity and shade
- Always grows in small quantity

Potential site-specific threats/issues

- There are few specific threats to this population. If *Rhododendron ponticum* were to encroach, this population may be threatened.

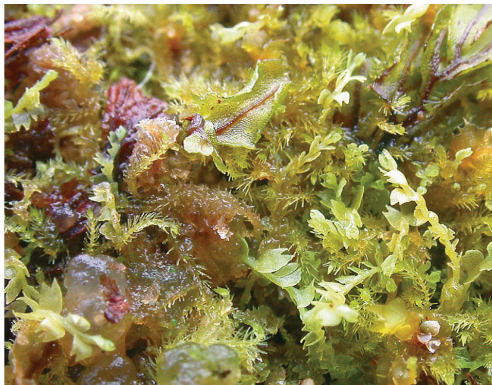
Excerpt from:
 Lockhart, N., Hodgetts, N. & Holyoak, D. (2012). *Rare and Threatened Bryophytes of Ireland*. Belfast: National Museums Northern Ireland Publication No. 028.

RARE AND THREATENED BRYOPHYTES OF IRELAND

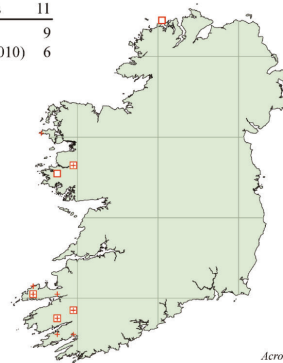
Acrobolbus wilsonii Nees

Wilson’s Pouchwort

Status in Ireland: Vulnerable (D1); Status in Europe: Near Threatened



Number of Hectads	11
+ Old (pre-1970)	9
Recent (1970–2010)	6



Acrobolbus wilsonii

Identification

This is a small bilobed leafy liverwort that grows as isolated shoots or in thin mats, with shoots up to 2.5 cm long and 3 mm wide. The leaves are almost longitudinally inserted and bilobed $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$, occasionally with small irregular subsidiary lobes. The underleaves are very small,

consisting of only a few cells, or more rarely up to 8 cells long and lanceolate. *A. wilsonii* is superficially rather similar to small plants of *Leiocolea collaris*, but with more distant, more deeply bilobed leaves with longer, more tapering lobes and underleaves smaller or almost absent. It has a characteristically opaque, pale green, fleshy

appearance and fragile texture, differentiating it from the delicate, translucent, not particularly fragile (and very common) *Lophocolea bidentata*. Furthermore, unlike *Lophocolea* and *Leiocolea*, *A. wilsonii* is not aromatic and produces female inflorescences in marsupia rather than perianths. Specimens collected below Brandon Mountain are particularly difficult, since they have relatively large, lanceolate underleaves, and could easily be taken for diminutive *L. collaris*. They were eventually assigned to *Acrobolbus* on the basis of habitat and lack of aroma.

Distribution in Ireland

This species is confined to the extreme west, with recent records from seven localities in five vice-counties: S. Kerry (Mullaghanattin, 1983; Ballaghbeama Gap, 1967, 1983; Brandon Mountain, 1961–2006); N. Kerry (Torc Cascade, 1841–1983); W. Galway (Bengower, 1994); W. Mayo (Devil's Mother, 1901–2003) and W. Donegal (Horn Head, 1991 and 2002). Older records are known from N. Kerry (Galway's Bridge, 1936; Cromaglan, 1829–1955; Derrymore River, 1950); W. Cork (Lackawee, 1968; Glengarriff, 1869, 1876) and W. Mayo



Devil's Mother, ravine on north-west slope, Co. Mayo.

RARE AND THREATENED BRYOPHYTES OF IRELAND

(Croaghaun, 1925). Ellen Hutchins' (1812) record from 'near Bantry' in Cork is too vague to assign to a hectad. There is no real evidence of decline. Ratcliffe (1968) places *A. wilsonii* into the Southern Atlantic group.

Ecology and biology

It grows among other Atlantic bryophytes on damp shaded rocks, in ravines or in crevices between boulders on N.-facing slopes in oceanic areas, often where there is some base-rich influence. Recorded associates in Ireland include *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Dumortiera hirsuta*, *Fissidens adiantoides*, *Hyocomium armoricum*, *Jubula hutchinsiae*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *P. neesiana*, *Rhizomnium punctatum* and *Trichostomum hibernicum*. It is essentially a lowland plant, although the highest recorded altitude for this species in Ireland is 490 m.

This is an autoicous species; female inflorescences are frequent, but male inflorescences and sporophytes are rare. Gemmae are unknown.

World distribution

It is known elsewhere in Europe and Macaronesia only from Scotland (it is listed as *Nationally Scarce* in Britain), the Faeroes (where only a single locality is known), the Azores (c. 6 sites on 4 islands, *Endangered*), and Madeira (single known site, *Endangered*). Ros *et al.* (2007) mention a doubtful old (pre-1962) record from Spain, but this is

rejected by Söderström *et al.* (2002, 2007). In Europe, it is assigned to a Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate floristic element. Outside Europe, *A. wilsonii* has been reported from C. and S. America (Söderström *et al.* 2002), but Paton (1999) does not list localities outside Europe and Macaronesia, and the European *Red Data Book* (ECCB 1995) considers it to be endemic to Europe.

Threats

Although there are no obvious threats to this species, it always occurs in small amounts, so populations could potentially be destroyed very easily. By the same token, it may be overlooked, so there is probably more of it in Ireland than records suggest.

Conservation

A. wilsonii should survive if its habitats are allowed to remain more or less undisturbed.

Protected sites with recent records: Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC; Killarney National Park; Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC; Maumtrasna Mountain Complex pNHA; Mount Brandon SAC; The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC; **Unprotected sites with recent records:** none.