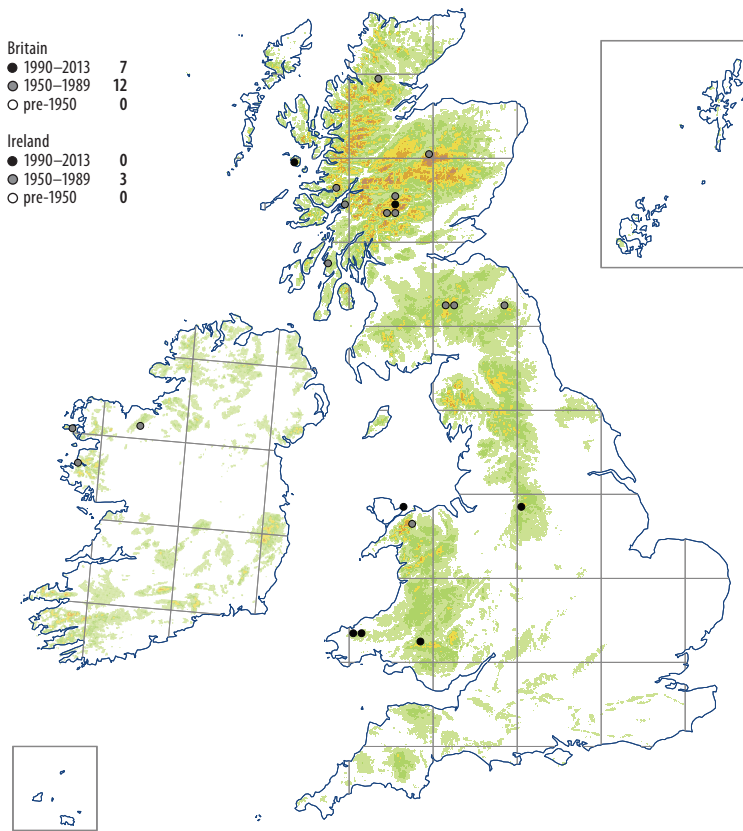


# Fossombronia fimbriata



Occurs as scattered plants on damp gravelly, sandy or schistose soil on streamsides, lake margins, roadsides, paths and the floor of disused quarries. A degree of flushing with neutral water is often apparent, and several colonies have been noted where sheep tracks meet *Juncus* flushes. Characteristic associates include *Fossombronia incurva*, *F. wondraczekii*, *Haplomitrium hookeri*, *Riccardia incurvata* and bulbiferous *Pohlia* species. Observations in Pembrokeshire suggest that some colonies persist in the same area over several years, whilst others are transitory. None of the six Pembrokeshire sites has been found to support more than nine individual plants in any year (Bosanquet, 2010), and a tiny population size seems to be typical of the species. Altitudinal range: 5–350 m.

Dioicous; often fertile, but sporophytes are very rare, mature in cultivation in October (Paton, 1999). Exogenous gemmae are reported by Stottler (on <http://bryophytes.plant.siu.edu>) and Paton (1999) illustrates regenerants and reports that rhizoids can grow from leaf fragments.

*Fossombronia fimbriata* was discovered in Westernness in 1967 and described, new to science, in 1974. Its small size and tendency to grow in very small quantity mean that it is easily overlooked and is likely to be under-recorded still.

Suboceanic Temperate. Outside Britain and Ireland the only records are from acid dune slacks in the Netherlands (van Tooren & Bruin, 2004) and from Germany (Schumacker & Váňa, 2005).

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