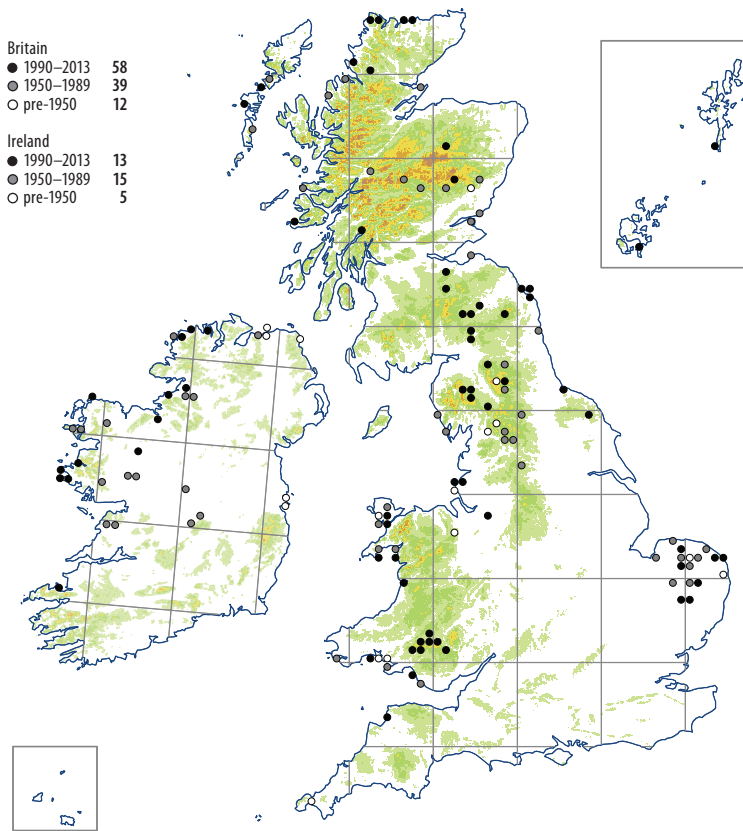
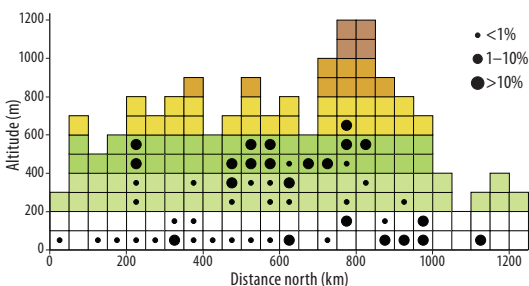


Moerckia flotoviana



A plant with split habitat preferences, unified by a high pH and seasonal or constant wetness. Just under half of its colonies are in calcareous dune slacks, where associated species may include *Aneura pinguis*, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, *Preissia quadrata*, *Amblyodon dealbatus* and *Meesia uliginosa*. Most of the remainder are inland in base-rich flushes, fens or tufaceous rock faces, with other calcicoles such as *Schoenus nigricans*, *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum*, *Palustriella commutata* and *P. falcata*. There are also a few records from damp quarry floors, ditch banks and silty or marshy ground. Sand dune plants appear drought tolerant, new shoots innovating from the midrib of plants surviving the summer. Altitudinal range: 0–540 m.

There have been losses from some fen sites in East Anglia and it no longer occurs in half of the Welsh dune systems



that it once occupied. Discovery of previously unknown colonies in S Wales and the Scottish Borders has masked these declines, but many of these 'new' populations are precariously small.

Dioicous; sporophytes are occasional, April and May.

Moerckia flotoviana and *M. hibernica* were formerly considered as separate species, but by the time of the 1991–1994 Atlas they had come to be regarded as synonymous. Kinser & Crandall-Stotler (2003) confirmed their distinctness, and subsequent studies by D.G. Long have elucidated the ecological differences between the two species.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Found in much of Europe, especially central and western areas, north to the Faeroes and Fennoscandia. Caucasus, Siberia, Mongolia; northern N America south to New England.

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