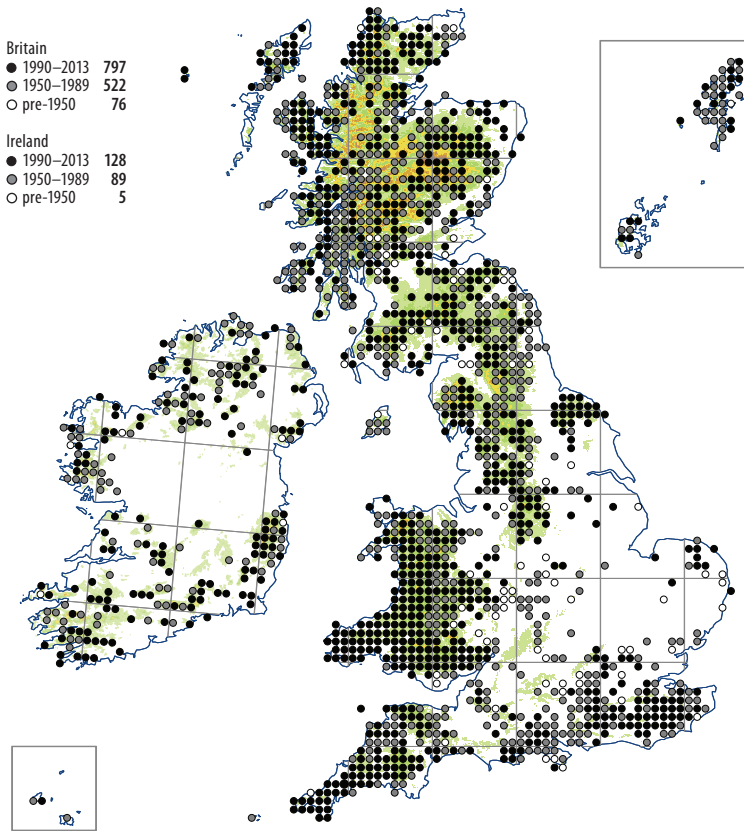


Solenostoma gracillimum



A pioneer species of open or lightly shaded habitats on base-poor substrates, especially on clay, sand and loam. It may thus occur on banks and paths in woods and on moorland, on the banks of streams and ditches, by reservoirs, on cliffs and in old quarries, always in situations which are kept open by trampling, weathering or other disturbance. It may occur as extensive, pure patches on copper-mine spoil, especially where the copper levels are high and the substrate is damp, and on mine spoil with high concentrations of lead and zinc; there is evidence for ecotypic differentiation between populations from sites rich in copper and those on lead-mine spoil (Brown & House, 1978). More rarely it occurs on soft rock such as porous sandstone and decaying shale on the banks of streams and in ravines. *Nardia scalaris* and *Dicranella heteromalla* are common associates. Altitudinal range: 10–920 m.

There has been a decline in C England, but *Solenostoma gracillimum* has not declined nearly as much as *Nardia scalaris* in eastern England; the same is true in the Netherlands (BLWG, 2013).

Diocious. Capsules are frequent, January to July. Gemmae are unknown.

European Boreo-temperate. Most of Europe but rare in the Mediterranean region; Macaronesia. Algeria, Tunisia; Turkey, Lebanon, Iran, Kamchatka, China, Taiwan, Himalaya; N America from eastern Canada south to Texas and California; Mexico, Jamaica.

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