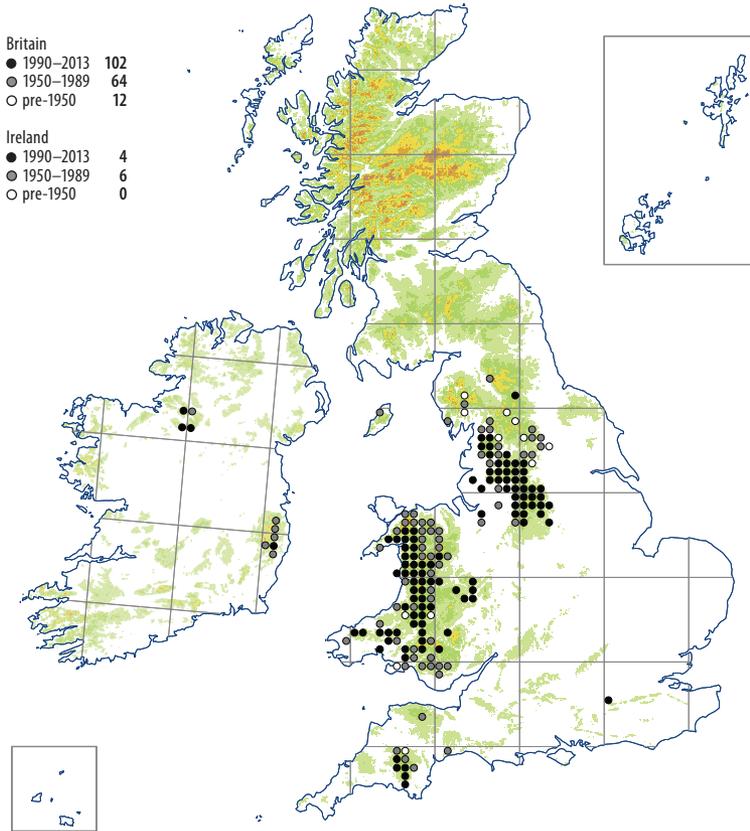


Atrichum crispum



A plant of moist semi-open habitats on acid or very acid soils, including sandy, gritty and peaty soils and wet gravel. It is commonest by rocky streams in wooded valleys, forming large tufts or patches mixed with detritus or other bryophytes among boulders or with grasses and rushes. It also occurs widely by ditches, pools and streams on moorland, and abundantly on exposed sandy or muddy peat by some reservoirs. Less common habitats include lake margins, edges of forest roads, and rock crevices by waterfalls. In its typical habitat it has rather few bryophyte associates except for very acid-tolerant species such as *Nardia compressa*, *Scapania undulata*, *Dicranella heteromalla* and *Polytrichum commune*; by reservoirs it may occur with *Dicranella rufescens*, *Pseudophemerum nitidum*, bulbiferous species of *Pohlia* and rarely *Atrichum tenellum*. Altitudinal range: 5–535 m.

It is thought to be introduced from N America. Though locally abundant in the Pennines and Wales it has failed to spread to Scotland, and there have been only minor extensions to its range during the past two decades.

Dioicous; British and Irish plants are male. Rhizoidal tubers are often abundant (Arts, 1987).

First found by John Nowell near Rochdale in 1848, it was locally plentiful in West Lancashire at the beginning of the 20th century (Wheldon & Wilson, 1907), by which time it was also known from Devon and Wales. It was first discovered in Ireland in 1957. Non-undulate forms of *A. undulatum* are sometimes mistaken for it and a few of the outlying records may be incorrect.

Suboceanic Temperate. Only in Britain and Ireland in Europe; reports from elsewhere have proved to be erroneous. Eastern N America from Florida to Newfoundland.

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