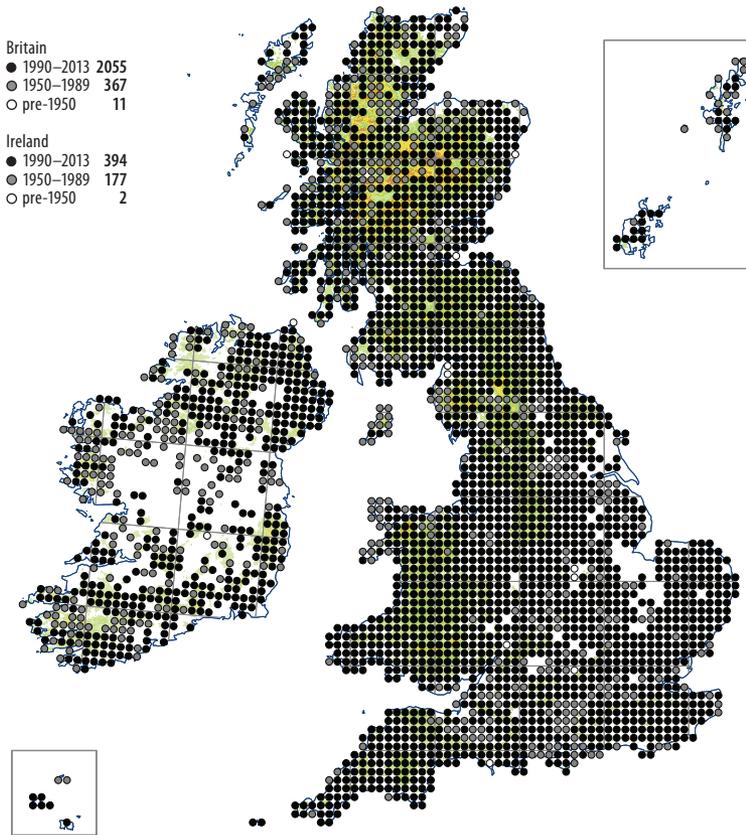


# Atrichum undulatum



A characteristic and common woodland species of acid to neutral clay and loamy soils, often plentiful on bare ground with associates that include *Pellia epiphylla*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Kindbergia praelonga* and *Mnium hornum*. It is much more limited in occurrence in chalk and limestone woodlands, growing on overlying clay-with-flints and other accumulations of non-calcareous soil. It occurs in many other semi-natural habitats that are sheltered, shaded or moist, including stream and river banks, soil pockets in unimproved pasture and on grassy banks, lanesides and hedgebanks. In the uplands its habitats include earth among rocks and in scree, flushed ground on moorland, and earthy ledges and wet rock crevices in gullies and ravines, sometimes where there is very little accumulation of soil. It is frequent in churchyards and undisturbed parts of parks and gardens, and it colonises

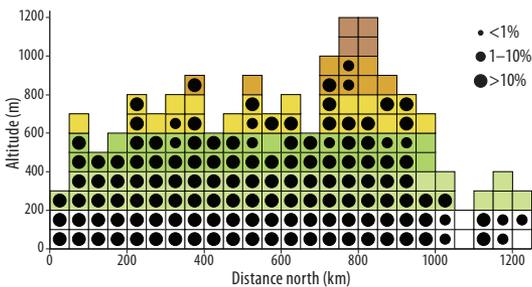
temporary habitats such as soil dumps, old quarries, pits and mine spoil. Altitudinal range: 0–850 m.

*Atrichum undulatum* remains a common species and many of the gaps in its mapped range have been filled during the past two decades.

Monoicous; capsules are frequent to common, mature in winter. Lateral spread of the colonies is by an extensive system of rhizoid 'wicks'; new colonies can arise from detached leaves (Longton & Schuster, 1983). Rhizoidal tubers have been reported from Austria by Suanjak (1999).

At least three cytological races occur in Britain and Ireland, but do not correspond to recognised varieties. There are a few very old records for var. *gracilisetum*, a plant of uncertain status and sometimes treated as a distinct species (*A. flavisetum* Mitt.). It is possibly overlooked, but ought to be distinctive in the field, having yellow setae and small erect capsules.

Circumpolar Boreal-temperate. Var. *undulatum* is widespread in Europe, mainly in the forest zone, becoming rare in the far north, reaching Iceland but not Svalbard, extending south to the Mediterranean mountains. Macaronesia and N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus. Widespread across temperate Asia to Japan. Most records from N and C America refer to other closely related species or varieties; var. *undulatum* is apparently rare and probably introduced there.



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