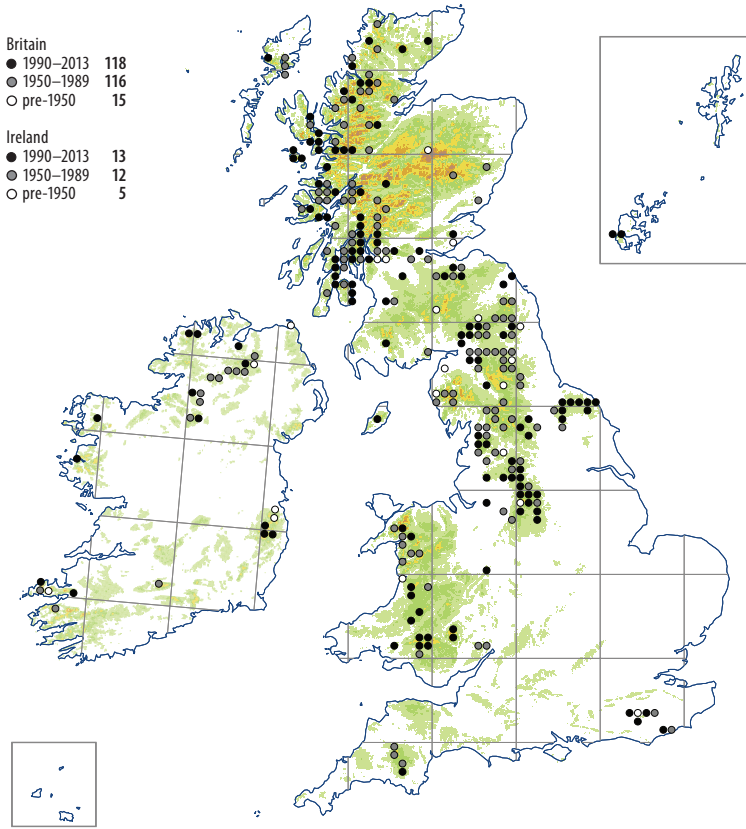


# Tetradontium brownianum



A moss of moist, but not permanently wet, siliceous rocks that are acid or slightly basic, most often on sandstone but also igneous rocks. It grows directly on the rock surface in sheltered places where there is little other competition, typically in crevices or under overhangs, on vertical faces or growing down from the ceiling of rocky recesses. It is found in low-lying wooded ravines, on cliffs by moorland streams and on montane crags, and is very tolerant of shade. It is often in extensive pure patches, sometimes with few or no sporophytes, but may be associated with other shade-tolerant species, including *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Diplophyllum albicans* and *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. On weakly basic rock it may occur with or close to *Blindia acuta* and *Seligeria recurvata*. Altitudinal range: 10–850 m.

Although the records show a declining trend since 1990, this is probably a reflection of recent under-recording in some areas (e.g. N England). Its habitat is one that is rarely under direct threat, and it is unlikely that there has been a significant decline.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in summer. No special methods of vegetative reproduction are known.

Suboceanic Temperate. Westernmost Norway, Pyrenees, C Europe, east to Ukraine. Turkey, Himalaya, C and E Asia, Japan. N America. Chile. New Zealand. The precise distribution is uncertain because the name has often been used in a broad sense that does not differentiate between related species or treats them as varieties.

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