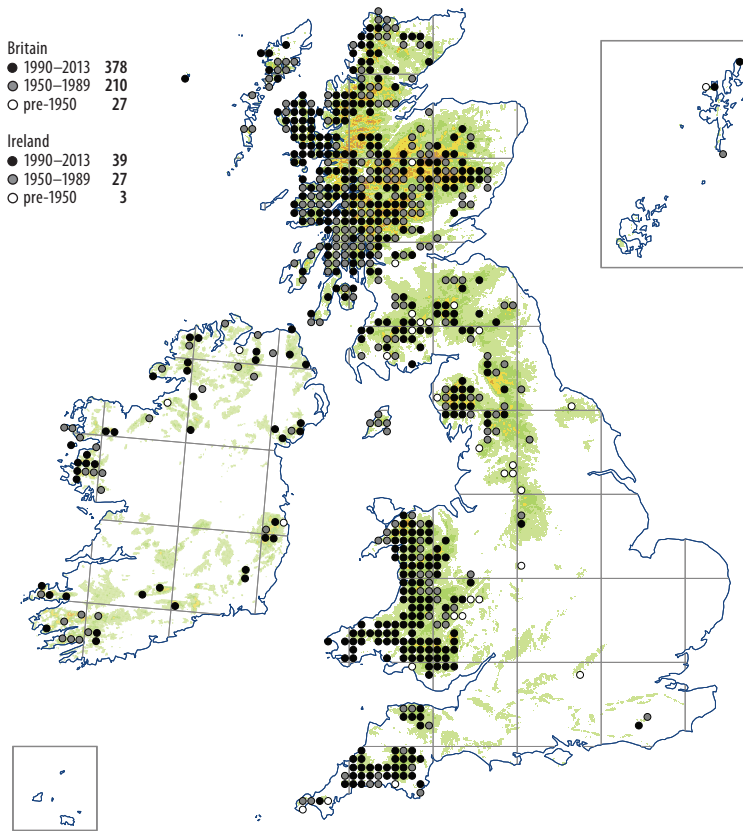


Diphyscium foliosum



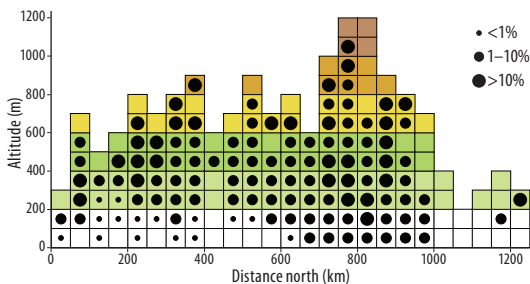
A frequent plant in the north and west but rarely present anywhere in great abundance. It favours shaded, often overhanging, well-drained bare sandy or earthy banks, generally acid and base-poor, by streams, in wooded valleys, and in low-lying wooded ravines and gullies, where it can tolerate deep shade. It also occurs in soil-filled crevices in rock walls of ravines, on damp shaded earthy or peaty banks amongst boulders in stable block scree, on shaded earth banks by tracks and forestry roads, on earth among tree roots, and more rarely on soil-covered boulders on moorland, on bare soil on steep moorland slopes, and on soil-capped ledges and crevices of crags and montane cliffs. It may occur over limestone and basic rocks where there is sufficient accumulation of humus. *Diplophyllum albicans* is a common associate. Altitudinal range: 0–1080 m.

This distinctive species has always been well recorded and there is no evidence of decline except at the periphery of its range (and even there it has been refound recently in Sussex and Derbyshire).

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, mature in summer; asexual reproduction occurs by fragmentation of the persistent protonema (Duckett, 1994).

It is easily overlooked when vegetative and in small quantity, but this has little impact on the recorded distribution.

European Boreo-temperate. N, W and C Europe from Iceland, N Scandinavia, S Finland, NW Russia and Ukraine south to Portugal, Corsica and the Balkan mountains. Macaronesia. Turkey, Caucasus, E Asia, Japan. N America (mainly in the east) and C America.



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