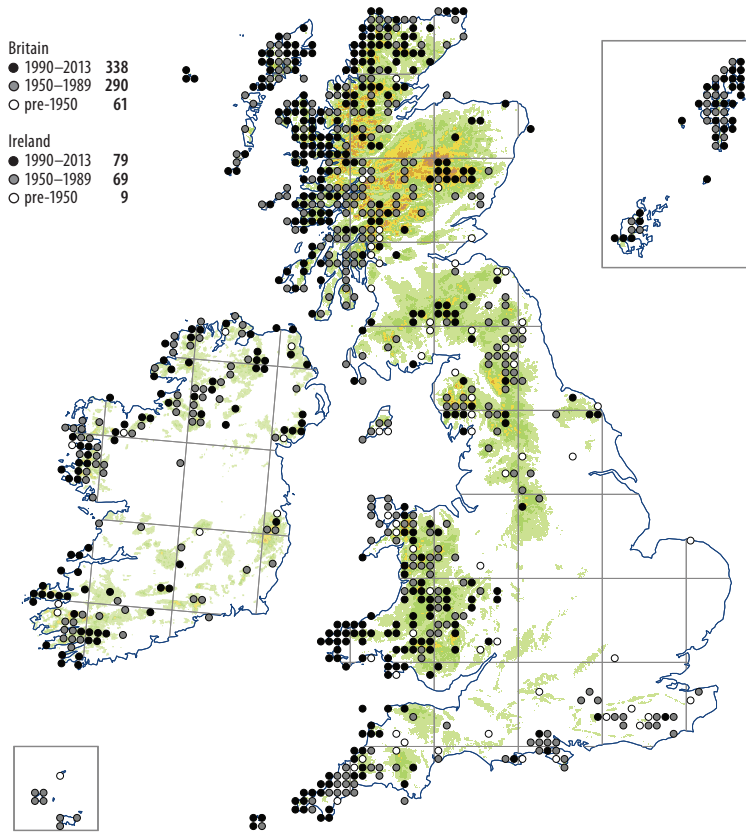


Entosthodon obtusus



In thin patches or as scattered shoots on moist acid, neutral or weakly basic soils in open places, very rarely in shade. A frequent habitat is on mineral gravelly or somewhat peaty soils in bare patches on heaths and moorland, broken slopes, stream and ditch banks, coastal gullies and sea cliffs; it colonises cuttings and bare peat in disturbed blanket bog and in new forestry plantations. It also occurs occasionally on ledges and thin soil over rocks; it has been recorded over limestone, but only where peaty humus has accumulated. Another distinctive habitat is on clay in marshes and wet tussocky grassland. It appears sometimes on disturbed soil on banks, in quarries and other temporary sites. *Entosthodon attenuatus* is a frequent associate. Altitudinal range: 5–785 m.

records have been added in S Wales and W Scotland since the 1991–1994 Atlas.

Autoicous; capsules are common, maturing from winter to summer.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. From Iceland, the Faeroes, S Scandinavia and Poland south to the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia and N Africa. Reported from Turkey, Israel and Iran. It has declined at the north-eastern edge of its range, for example in Germany.

T.L. Blockeel

There have been some losses at the eastern edge of its range in England, but overall its status is stable. Many new

