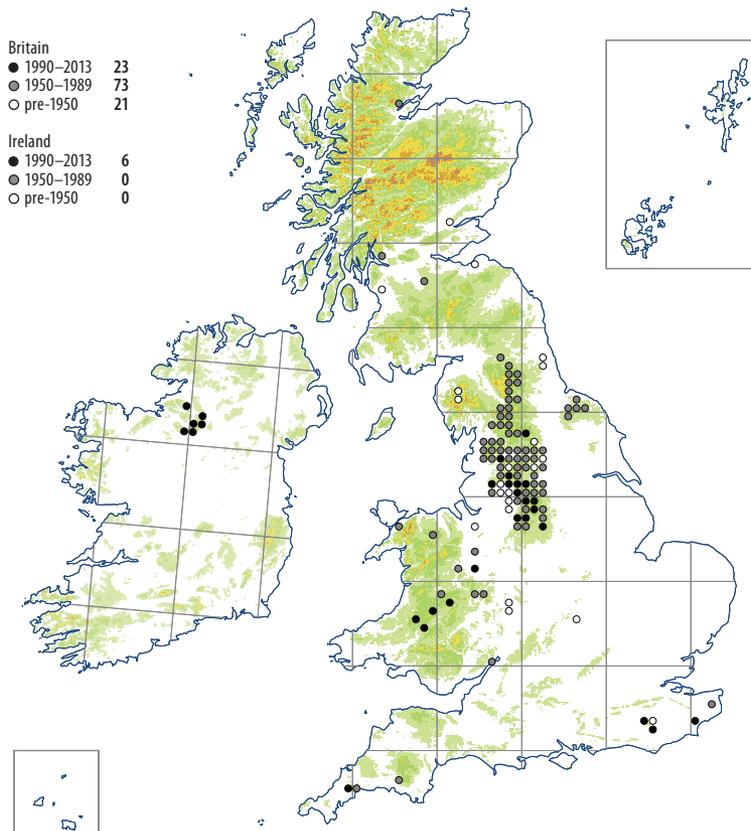


Discelium nudum



A colonist of newly bared reservoir mud and acid clayey banks by streams and rivers, being especially characteristic of steep denuded shale-clay banks on Pennine moorlands, sometimes forming extensive mats. Elsewhere it has been found on clay banks by roads, on china-clay waste, on fine-textured mud in a slate quarry, on clay in brickworks, on bare earth in a woodland ride, and on a muddy farm track. It is a primary colonist characteristic of newly bared surfaces and is soon outcompeted on stable surfaces. The colonies, with scattered bud-like gametophores emerging from a persistent protonema, are often pure, but can be associated with a wide range of other bryophytes, including some that regenerate from spores and others regenerating from tubers. A particularly frequent associate is *Dicranella rufescens*; others include *Nardia scalaris*, *Solenostoma*

gracillimum, *Pogonatum aloides* and *Pohlia annotina*.
Altitudinal range: 5–475 m.

In spite of the relatively few post-1990 records in the Pennines, there is no reason to suppose a decline there. Many of the moorlands on which it occurs have not been systematically recorded in the past two decades.

Pseudodioicous; capsules are often abundant, mature in spring. Rhizoidal tubers were first described by Side & Whitehouse (1987). In a subsequent study Duckett & Pressel (2003) found that the rhizoids produce starch-filled tubers down to 1 cm into the substrate. These undergo rapid germination, providing a means of re-populating substrates if the surface layer is stripped away (e.g. by frost action).

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Scattered and occasional in N Europe from northern Fennoscandia and Arctic Russia south to the Spanish Pyrenees (possibly extinct), C Germany and Bohemia (Czech Republic). Northern Asia; Japan; rare and scattered in N America south to California and Pennsylvania.

M.O. Hill, rev. T.L. Blockeel

