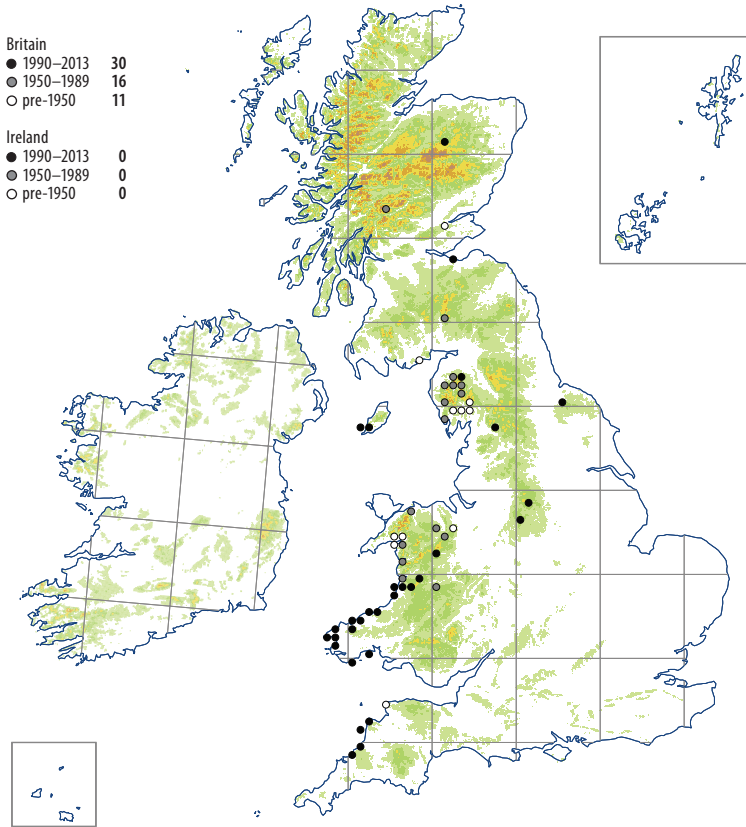


# Coscinodon cribrosus



Typically found on dry, acid rocks, especially in the crevices of layered slate and shale outcrops, occasionally on walls, and less commonly on harder rocks. Many of its sites are on coastal cliffs and slopes, often growing on friable rocks near the tops of the cliffs, but also on boulders below. Most inland records are also from shale and slate, on sites that include stream banks, old quarries, and natural crags in the uplands. It is tolerant of very acid conditions, occurring sometimes on very sour, rotten shale and it has been recorded from copper-rich rocks. In NE Yorkshire it occurs at the site where *Mielichhoferia elongata* grows on Liassic alum shales which produce sulphuric acid and where the pH values may fall below 3; they have substantial copper content. *Coscinodon cribrosus* often lacks closely associated bryophytes; those recorded include *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Metzgeria furcata* and *Bryum capillare*. Altitudinal range: 5–915 m.

Many new sites have been detected on the western coasts of England and Wales in the past two decades, and more surprisingly at two sites in the Peak District, where it is very sparse. This increase is undoubtedly due to systematic surveys and recorder awareness rather than an actual increase in range. It is likely that it still occurs at many of its old Lake District sites.

Dioicous; capsules are mostly rare, but occasionally plentiful, mature in spring and summer. Bosanquet (2010) found that most Pembrokeshire colonies are female, and capsules only occur where short-leaved male tufts are also present. This is presumably also true elsewhere.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. In Europe from Svalbard and Arctic Russia south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Canary Islands, N Africa (Algeria, Morocco). Turkey, Cyprus, Caucasus, Georgia to Kyrgyzstan. Scattered across northern Asia, south to the Himalaya. N America, south to Arizona and New Mexico; Greenland.

T.L. Blockeel

