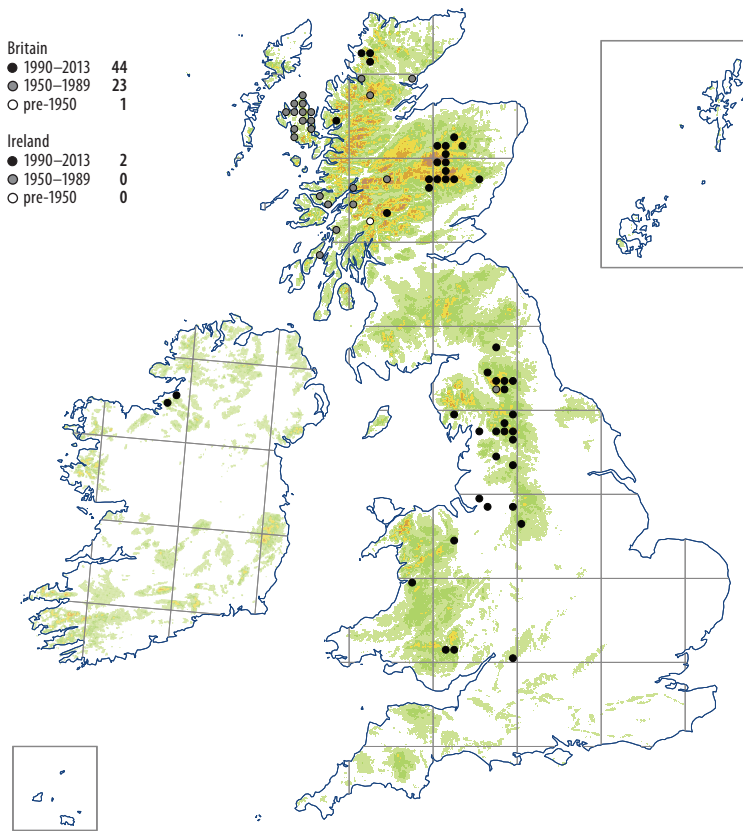


Schistidium robustum



A locally abundant species of upland limestone and to a lesser extent basalt, *Schistidium robustum* is especially prominent on the Dalradian Limestone of the eastern Scottish Highlands where it forms hoary cushions on boulders and ribs of rock. It also occurs frequently on Carboniferous Limestone in parts of the Pennines, but is scarce in Wales where *S. crassipilum* tends to occupy the upland limestone niche. Typical associates include *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Ditrichum flexicaule*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *S. crassipilum*, *S. papillosum*, *Tortella tortuosa* and *Tortula muralis*. This species is sometimes found on limestone blocks in walls within its core range, and there are outlying records from an oolite wall in Gloucestershire and from ferroan-dolomite blocks in a mine wall in Cardiganshire. It has been collected once from concrete: on a reservoir dam at Seathwaite. Altitudinal range: 30–930 m.

This species is far better recorded than it was in the 1991–1994 Atlas, where it appeared as *S. apocarpum* var. *homodictyon*, especially in northern England and Wales: there was previously only one record from south of the Scottish border.

Autoicous. Capsules are common, mature late winter and spring.

European Boreal-montane. Widespread in the European mountains, with a western distribution in Norway, a concentration of records from the Alps, and records also from the Picos de Europa, Pyrenees, Jura, Carpathian and Tatra Mountains, the Balkan mountains, Ukraine, the Baltic Republics. Cyprus. Georgia. North-western, northern and north-eastern N America.

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