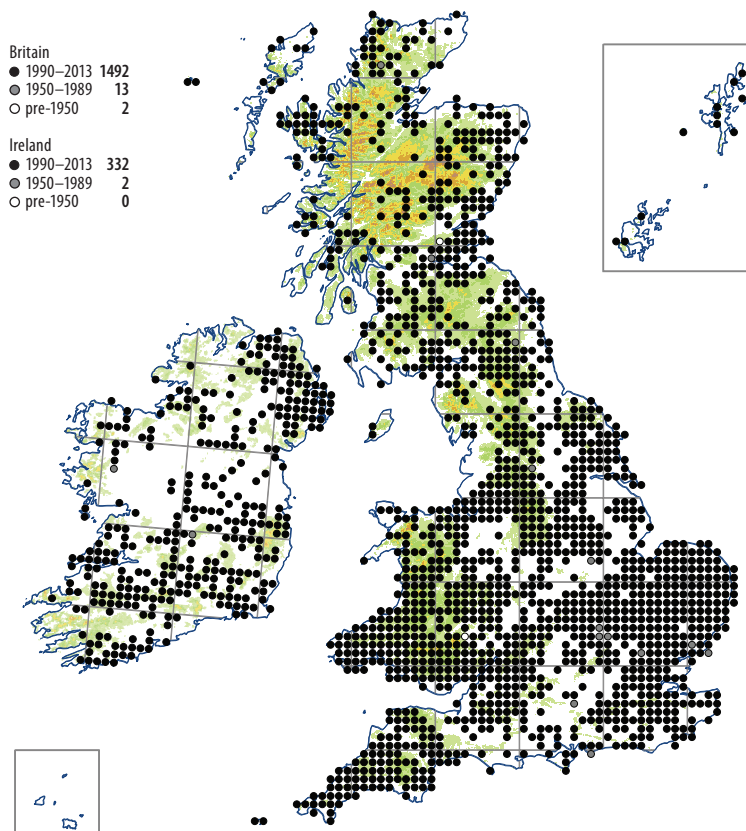


# Schistidium crassipilum

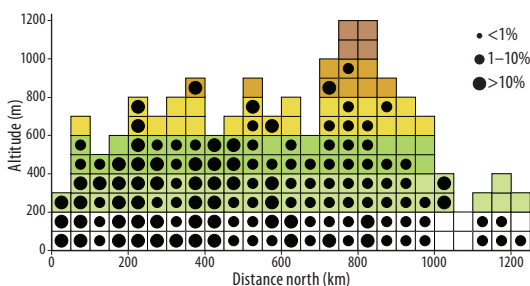


This recently described species (Blom, 1996) is the common *Schistidium* in most of Britain and Ireland, although it is uncommon and largely restricted to artificial substrates in the far north of Scotland. It grows on limestone, base-rich sandstone and basic igneous rocks, including cliffs, outcrops, limestone pavement and quarries, but especially boulders and detached blocks. *S. crassipilum* is often abundant on walls, bridges, concrete gate-posts and miscellaneous garden ornaments, favouring horizontal or gently sloping surfaces but also growing sometimes on vertical masonry, as well as tiled roofs, corrugated asbestos-cement, concrete paths and tarmac. It is generally found in sunny situations, but can tolerate light shade. *Didymodon rigidulus*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Orthotrichum anomalum*, *Rhynchostegium confertum* and *Tortula muralis* are characteristic associates. Altitudinal range: 0–970 m.

*Schistidium crassipilum* is now much more frequent in urban areas than it was in the era of high SO<sub>2</sub> pollution, and it has colonised substrates such as tarmac which it would not then have occupied.

Autoicous. Capsules are common, immature September to February, mature January to April.

*Schistidium crassipilum* has been well recorded since bryologists realised that it is overwhelmingly commoner than other members of the genus in lowland regions: the only major southern gaps are counties without recent active bryophyte recording. Variability in tuft size and hair-point length has led to some confusion with *S. apocarpum*, *S. confertum* and *S. elegantulum*, but that would have affected the maps for those species rather than this one.



European Southern-temperate. Common almost throughout Europe, but markedly southern in Norway and Sweden, occurring east to Crimea and the Caucasus. N Africa, Turkey and Cyprus. Western N America, Quebec.

S.D.S. Bosanquet