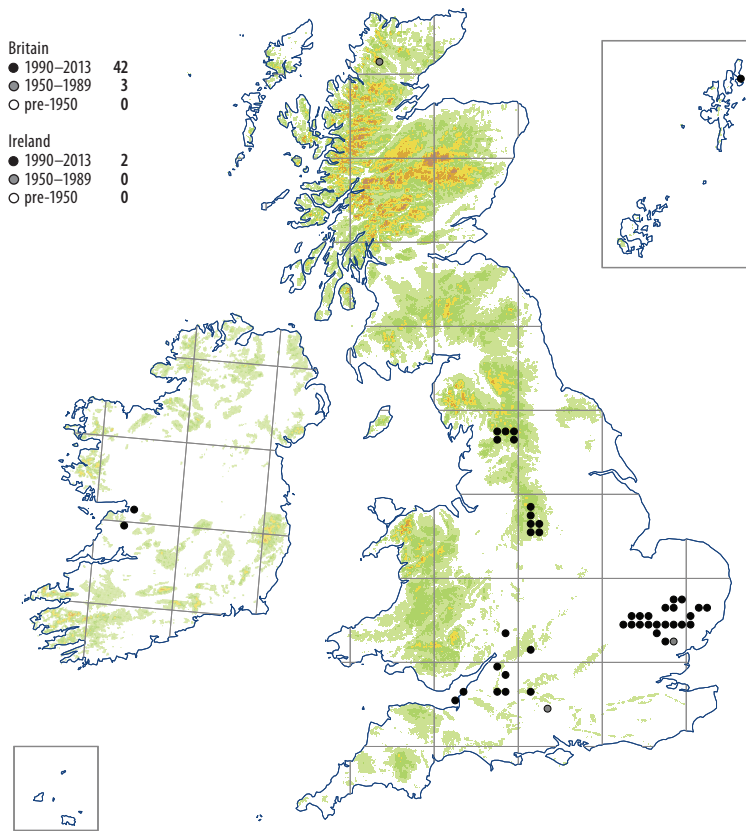


# Grimmia dissimulata

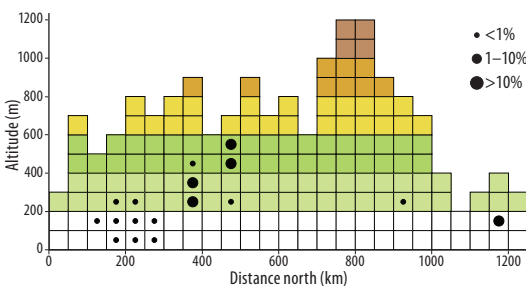


This lowland species grows as scattered tufts or sometimes in extensive patches on dry calcareous rock and stonework; only rarely does it occur on non-calcareous substrates (a slate roof) and it has been recorded on serpentine in the Shetlands. In southern England it is predominantly a plant of man-made structures, often associated with churchyards. Here it colonises sloping or flat surfaces of tombs, headstones, limestone-capped walls, plinths, and ledges and buttresses on churches. Further north in England, in the Peak District and Yorkshire, and in Scotland and Ireland, it is also found on natural limestone outcrops such as boulders and limestone pavement, favouring dolomitised limestone in the Peak District. It seems indifferent to aspect, growing in shaded conditions as well as in full sunlight. Many associates have been reported including *Bryum capillare*, *B. radiculosum*, *Didymodon*

*rigidulus*, *D. vinealis*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Orthotrichum anomalum*, *O. cupulatum*, *Rhynchostegium confertum*, *Schistidium crassipilum*, *Syntrichia montana* and *Tortula muralis*. Altitudinal range: 20–320 m.

Dioicous; male and female plants have been observed in British and Irish material but capsules are unknown.

*Grimmia dissimulata* was only recently recognised as a distinct species (Maier, 2002a), closely related *G. trichophylla*, and its occurrence in Britain was confirmed soon afterwards (Porley, 2004). However, the earliest known English specimen was collected in 1886 by H.N. Dixon. It was not collected in Scotland until 1960, and in Ireland until 2004. Because of its recent recognition, its known distribution remains incomplete.



European Southern-temperate. Widely distributed in many Mediterranean countries and islands, but also scattered in W, C and E Europe. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey, Syria. As a recently described species, its wider distribution is still incompletely known. In southern Europe it often occurs on boulders in woodland and in some regions, such as the Iberian Peninsula, it is occasionally found on acid rocks.

R.D. Porley