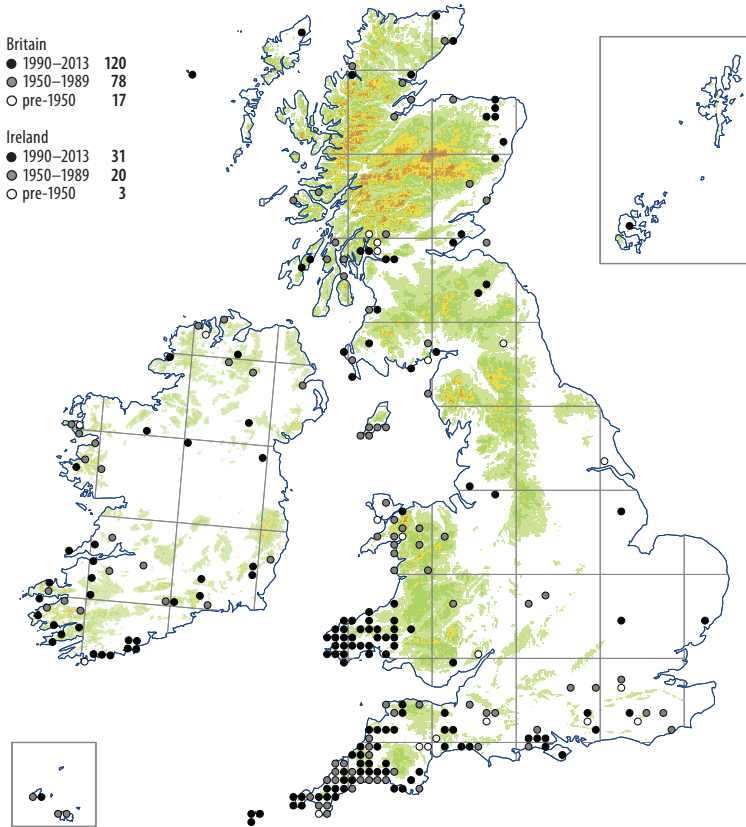


Anthoceros punctatus



This hornwort grows on fine-textured, wet, circumneutral, loamy and clayey soils in fallow fields, forestry tracks, eroding stream and river banks, and, less commonly, wet rocks and coastal slopes. A particularly characteristic habitat is damp, rushy corners of cattle pastures, where regular poaching creates abundant niches in which *A. punctatus* can grow, sometimes alongside *Phaeoceros laevis*. Other regular associates include *Fossombronina pusilla*, *F. wondraczekii*, *Riccia glauca*, *Philonotis fontana* and *Pseudephemerum nitidum*. The Survey of the Bryophytes of Arable Land produced the same number of records of *A. punctatus* and *A. agrestis*, with the former showing a more northern and western distribution than the latter. Altitudinal range: 0–245 m.

Anthoceros punctatus is much better recorded than in the 1991–1994 Atlas, especially in S Wales. Eastern English outliers have also been added in recent years.

Monoicous; sporophytes mature throughout the year in persistently wet sites. It lacks special means of asexual reproduction.

The need to measure the antheridial dimensions for identification is well known and it is unlikely that there are many erroneous records. However, *Anthoceros* colonies are sometimes too immature to identify and *A. punctatus* may sometimes have been overlooked when present in mixed colonies with *A. agrestis* on arable land.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. SW Europe, becoming rarer in C Europe, eastwards in the Mediterranean to Albania and Crete; Macaronesia. Occurring widely outside Europe: northern and tropical Africa; China, Taiwan, Himalaya, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia; Australia, New Caledonia; N America, Caribbean, Andean, Amazonian and southern S America.

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