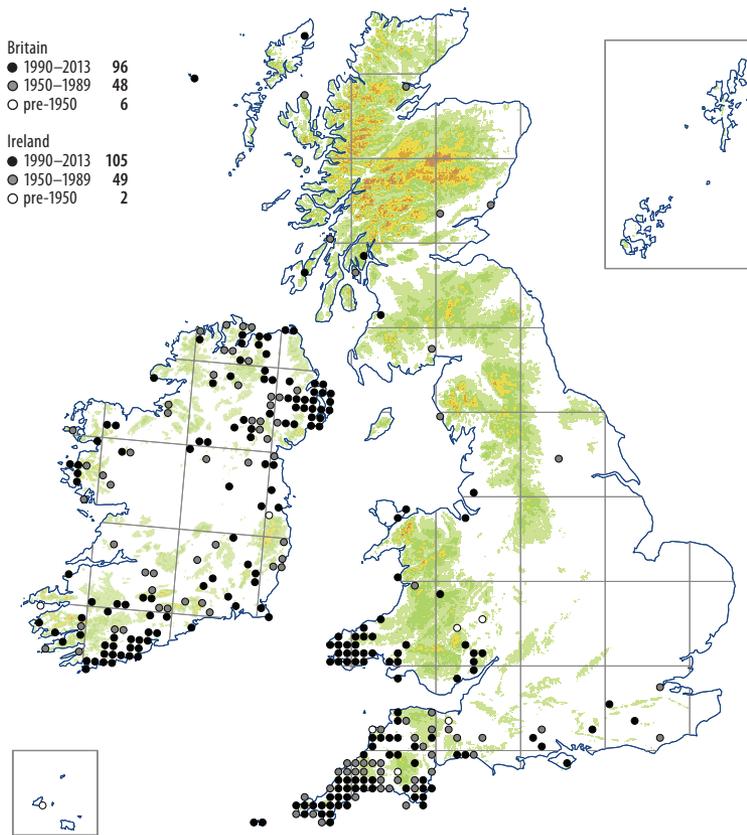


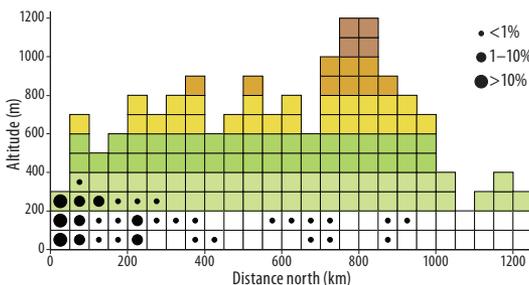
Phaeoceros laevis



Locally common on more or less permanently wet, often dripping clay banks of ditches and streams and on seeping lane banks; less frequently in fallow fields and on muddy tracks. *Anthoceros punctatus* is a regular associate, as are *Agrostis canina*, *Juncus effusus*, *Blasia pusilla*, *Fossombronina pusilla*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Pohlia annotina* and *P. camptotrachela*. This is the regular *Phaeoceros* in arable fields in Ireland and W Wales (Bosanquet, 2010), with associates that include *F. pusilla*, *Riccia glauca*, *R. sorocarpa*, *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella staphylinia*, *Entosthodon fascicularis*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and *Tortula truncata*, but is rare on arable land in SE Wales where it is largely replaced by *P. carolinianus*. There are several records from banks in churchyards, and *P. laevis* can be particularly prominent in some Irish cemeteries treated regularly with herbicide. It also grows occasionally in gardens, flowerbeds and lawns. Altitudinal range: 0–180 m.

Dioicous; sporophytes are frequent, maturing throughout the year in permanently wet sites. The spores are unusually long lived, and have germinated after 13 years' dry storage (Proskauer, 1958). Tubers are recorded occasionally, but are easily overlooked.

Phaeoceros laevis is somewhat under-recorded. In the 1991–1994 Atlas all records of *P. laevis s.l.* were assigned to this taxon except those known to be *P. carolinianus*. A recent revision of *Phaeoceros* specimens (Blackstock & Bosanquet, 2004) has shown that this approach is unjustifiable, but it has left some areas where records cannot be assigned to either species. The most notable gap is the Isle of Man, where *P. laevis s.l.* was described as frequent by Paton (1971); N Wales also has few recent records of *Phaeoceros* determined to species.



Mediterranean-Atlantic. SW Europe from Belgium to the Iberian Peninsula. N Africa, Turkey, Caucasus, Macaronesia. *P. laevis s.l.* is cosmopolitan.

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