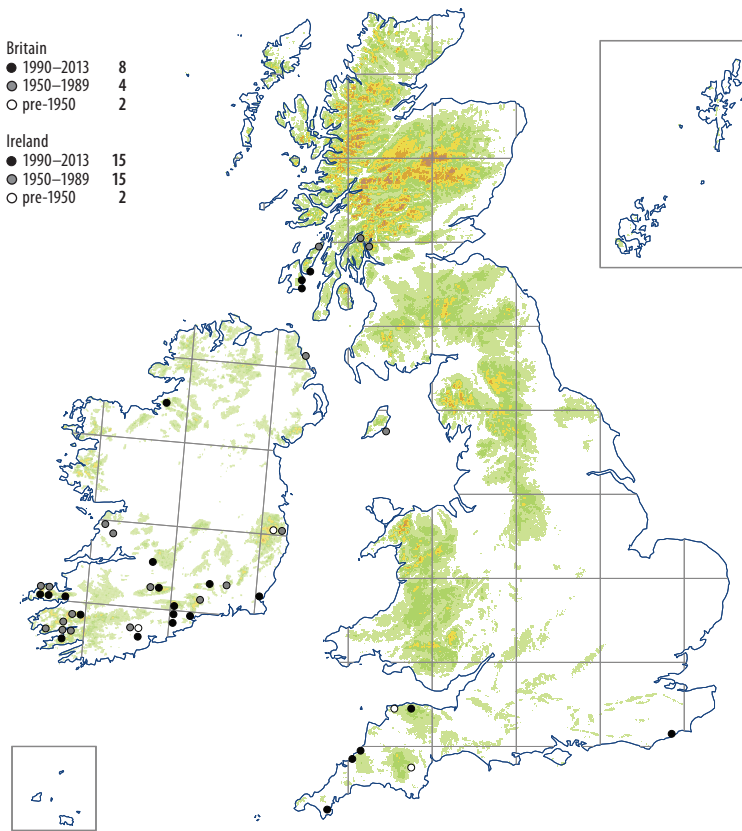


Dumortiera hirsuta



This species forms extensive patches on well-shaded, continuously moist, and often dripping rocks and steep soil banks in wooded glens at low elevations. It is commonly associated with *Chrysoplenium oppositifolium*, *Conocephalum conicum*, *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *Trichocolea tomentella*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum* and, more rarely, *Jubula hutchinsiae*. It also occurs on dripping rocks, in caves and other shaded recesses by waterfalls in wooded ravines, and in moist block litters in SW Ireland. In Cornwall and SE Ireland it also occurs on shaded riverbanks that are near high tide level in wooded estuaries. It tends to favour mildly basic substrates. Altitudinal range: 15–200 m.

A decline is apparent in Ireland (Lockhart *et al.*, 2012), and this large, distinctive species has not been re-found at over half of its known sites since 1970; the smaller British populations

appear stable, although the two sites in mainland Argyll have not been re-found.

Diocious or autoicous, with male plants more frequently recorded than females; archegoniophores are occasional, May to September. Caducous surface papillae act as gemmae (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

Oceanic Southern-temperate. Recorded from France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Macaronesia. Widespread in warm tropical regions in Asia, Africa and S America. The British localities are the northernmost known world occurrences for this mainly tropical species.

H.J.B. Birks, rev. J.G. Duckett & S. Pressel

