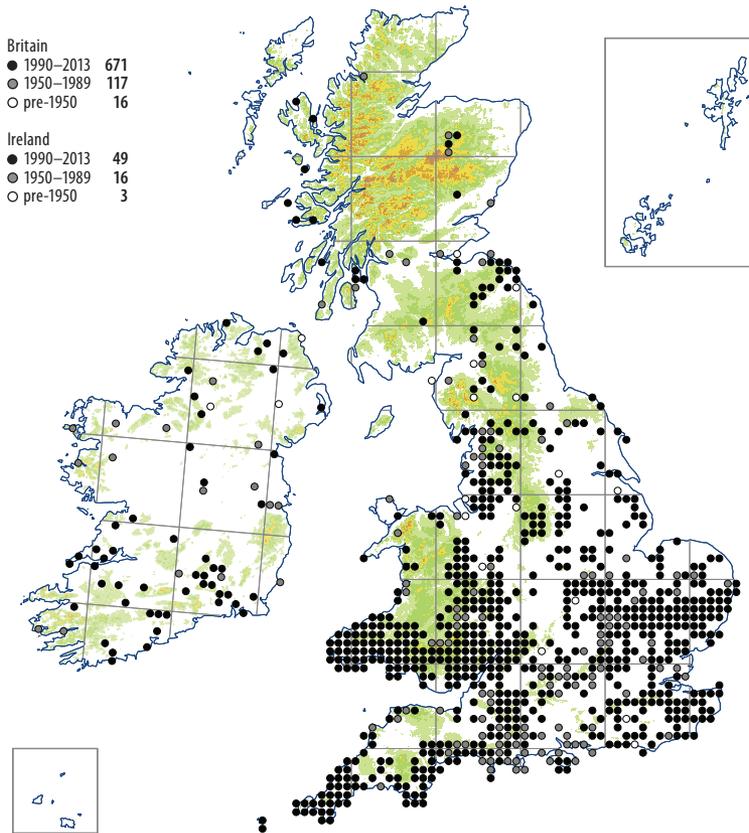


Fissidens viridulus



A frequent or common species in lowland areas forming small patches on basic to slightly acid soil that is not permanently wet, generally in less acid habitats than *Fissidens bryoides*. It is found on banks, by lanes, in grassland, on streamsides, in woodland, amongst rocks, and in rock crevices. Although it may occur on thin soil overlying rock, brickwork and concrete, it very rarely occurs directly on rock, except sometimes where the substrate is soft or crumbling. Many records are from disturbed ground, such as soil dumps, gardens, gateways and driveways, and in churchyards, but only rarely in arable fields. It is usually in open places or in light to moderate shade, occasionally in deep shade. Altitudinal range: 0–510 m.

Autoicous, synoicous or dioicous; capsules are common, mainly in winter and spring, but maturing sporadically until summer.

The taxonomy of *F. viridulus* and related species is notoriously difficult, and is in need of further analysis using molecular techniques. Smith (1978) included *F. pusillus* in *F. viridulus*, but recent recorders have generally followed the concepts of Corley (1980). However the morphology of the species overlaps and some small plants from soil are very difficult to separate from *F. pusillus*; the separation of *F. viridulus* from *F. crispus* can also be problematic. Consequently there have been inconsistencies in recording and some inaccuracies can be expected on the map.

Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Throughout Europe, extending to about 68° N in Scandinavia, east to European Russia and the Urals. Macaronesia, N Africa. Widespread in SW Asia. Widely elsewhere in Asia and N America. However taxonomic interpretations vary (it is often included in *F. bryoides* by American and some European bryologists), and its exact distribution is unclear.

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