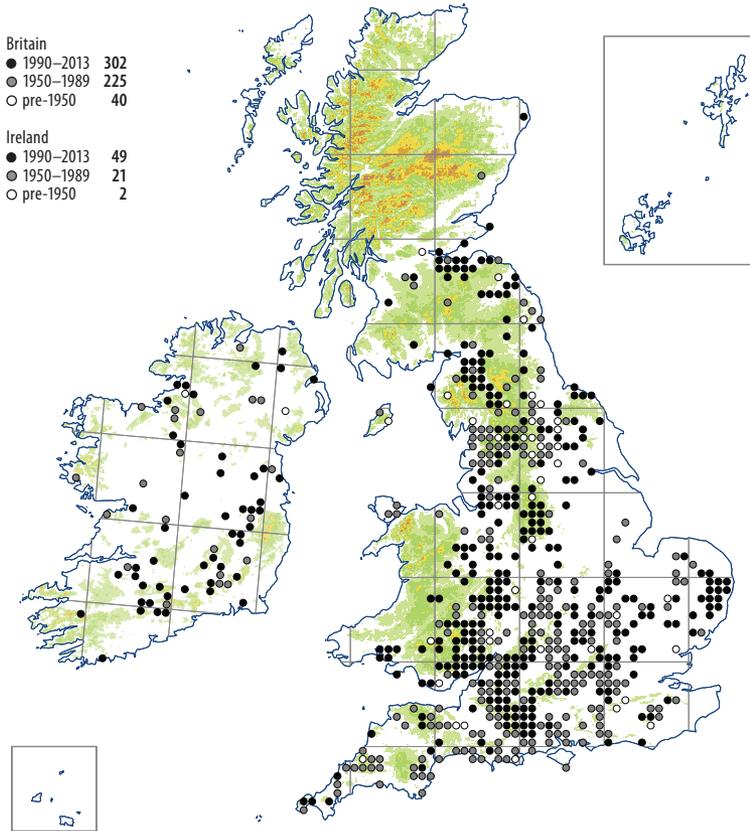


Fissidens crassipes



Invariably an aquatic or subaquatic species, it usually occurs gregariously at or below normal water level on rocks and tree roots, though normally exposed at least during low water in summer. It is found by upland streams on limestone and other basic rocks, but is also widespread in and by eutrophic streams and rivers in the lowlands, where bridge abutments often provide an appropriate substrate. Though often found in open country, it usually receives some shade from trees, bridges and the boulders on which it grows, and is tolerant of moderate shade in woodlands and ravines. It is also widespread on the sides of canals, and on concrete culverts and sluices. On submerged rocks it is often the only bryophyte present, but at the edge of water associates include *Cinclidotus fontinaloides*, *Platyhypnidium riparioides*, *Rhynchostegiella teneriffae* and *Schistidium rivulare*. Its distribution extends to slightly acid rocks, exceptionally

even in association with *Scapania undulata*. It is able to tolerate some degree of aquatic pollution. Altitudinal range: 0–475 m.

Fissidens crassipes is now more densely recorded than it was in the 1991–1994 Atlas, but much of the increase in records has come from previously under-recorded areas.

Dioicous, autoicous or rarely synoicous; capsules are frequent, late summer to winter.

Small forms can be confused with *F. pusillus*, and there may be a few inaccuracies on the map.

European Southern-temperate. Through much of Europe north to S Sweden and Latvia, east to Ukraine and S Urals. Macaronesia, N Africa. Widespread in SW Asia. In the Mediterranean region it is often represented by the larger subsp. *warnstorffii* (M. Fleisch.) Brugg.-Nann.

T.L. Blockeel

