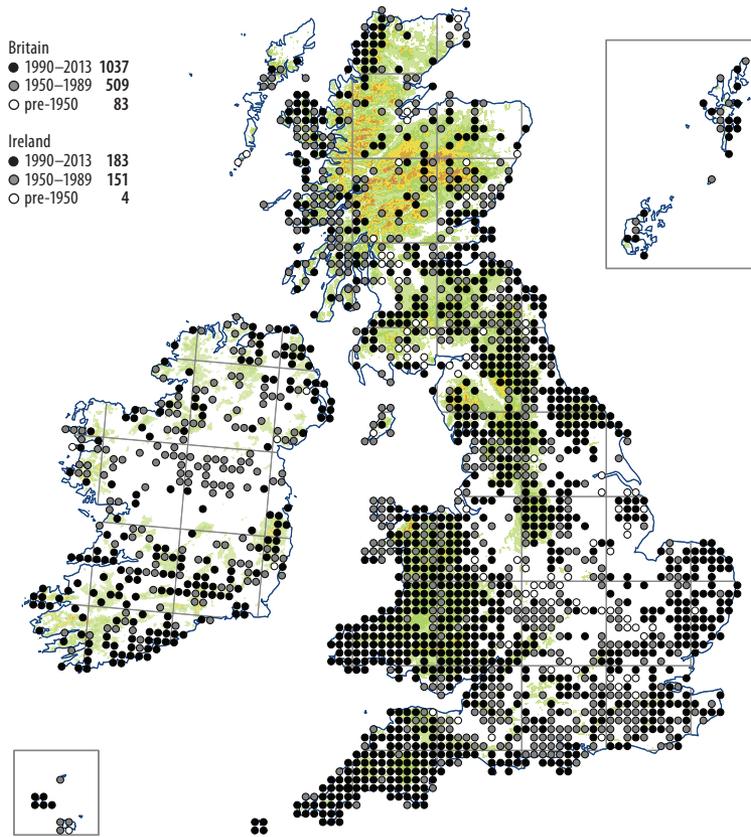


Weissia controversa var. controversa



This moss occurs in a wide variety of habitats on bare soils that are relatively stable and not regularly disturbed. Thus it occurs on banks in pastures, by streams and on lanesides, on both calcareous and acid rock ledges on crags, cliffs and in gullies, on coastal banks and cliffs, and in grassland on limestone and other basic rocks. Although often in quite open habitats, it also occurs away from direct sunlight, as on soil in rock crevices and under turf overhangs. It is sometimes found on lawn edges and bare soil in churchyards. Sterile shoots of *Weissia* on arable land may often belong to this species, but they are rarely able to produce mature capsules unless the fields are left fallow. The species probably requires at least slight mineral enrichment, and although most frequent on mildly acid to neutral soils, it flourishes on quite basic soil in limestone grasslands and on rock ledges. Associates on base-poor soil include *Bryum*

rubens, *B. sauteri*, *Didymodon insulanus* and *Fissidens bryoides*. In limestone grassland it may occur with *W. brachycarpa* var. *obliqua*. Var. *wimmeriana* has been recorded only once in Britain, from among calcareous rocks in a steep gully in Glen Feshie (Warburg, 1957). Altitudinal range: 0–650 m.

Autoicous; capsules are usually common, maturing from late winter to summer, though shaded plants often fail to produce capsules, and non-fruiting plants (not identifiable with certainty) are often encountered elsewhere. Var. *wimmeriana* is parocious.

Most records of *W. controversa* not identified to a named variety belong to var. *controversa* and all such records are included on the map. Some records may be based on vegetative plants, but with little impact on the overall accuracy of the map. Var. *wimmeriana* differs only in its inflorescence and is probably overlooked.

Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Nearly throughout Europe, including Iceland, but rare in the Arctic (not in Svalbard). Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. An almost cosmopolitan species, but not in Antarctica.

T.L. Blockeel

