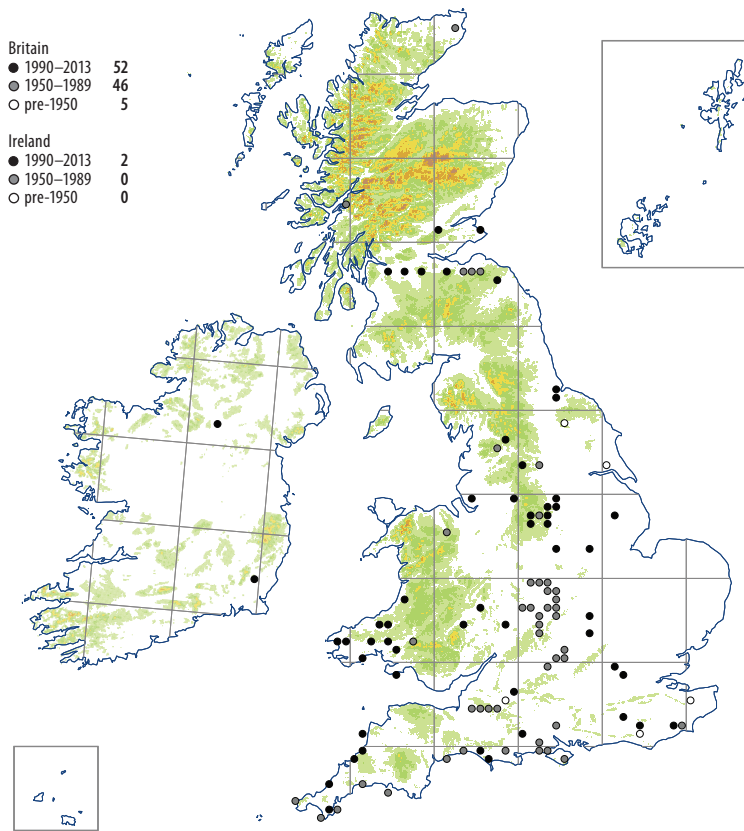


Weissia brachycarpa var. *brachycarpa*



This variety tends to occur in wetter habitats than var. *obliqua*, and often on neutral or mildly acid soil, especially clay, loam and marl. Typical habitats include bare patches in fields and grass leys, woodland rides and glades, ditch banks, old pits, and pond and reservoir margins, but it is also recorded from roadsides, cemeteries, soil among tree roots, and mineral and peaty soils in heathland. It is also an occasional member of the flora of arable fields, particularly on clay and clay-loam. *Fossombronina pusilla* is a frequent associate, but it occurs with many other species of moist open habitats, including *Archidium alternifolium* and *Ephemerum minutissimum*. By reservoirs and in stubble fields it is sometimes accompanied by *Weissia rostellata*. Altitudinal range: 5–270 m.

Early ploughing may represent a long-term threat to its occurrence in arable fields because of the slow maturation of its capsules.

Capsules are frequent, mature in winter and spring.

Var. *brachycarpa* may closely resemble *W. squarrosa* in the form and texture of the capsule, and it is possible that there has been some inconsistency in recording.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. As a species, *W. brachycarpa* is widespread in Europe, north to C Scandinavia. Azores, N Africa. Turkey, Cyprus and the Near East. Temperate Asia. Eastern N America, British Columbia. However the detailed distribution of the varieties is uncertain, as they are not differentiated in many floras and checklists.

T.L. Blockeel

