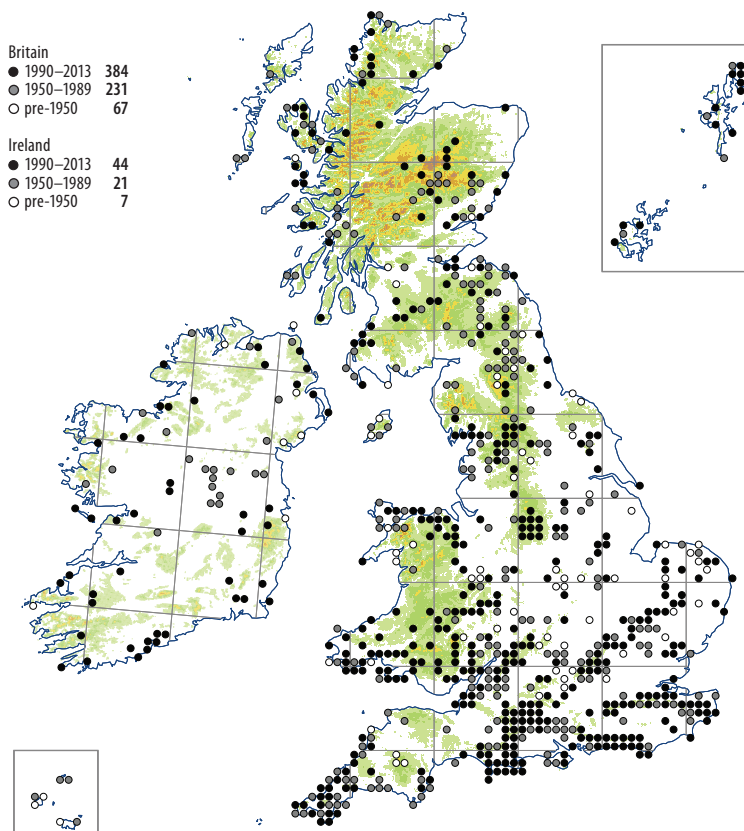


Weissia brachycarpa var. *obliqua*



Like *Weissia controversa*, with which it sometimes grows, this variety is characteristic of open, well-drained habitats, but has a marked preference for calcareous substrates, especially chalk and limestone. It grows on earthy banks, on broken ground among rocks, on earthy rock ledges and in thin turf in grassland. Common habitats include chalk downland, limestone hillsides and coastal cliffs and banks, but it may occur in a wide range of other open places such as churchyards, mine spoil, old quarries and gravelly tracks. Associates include a wide range of other calcicoles, including *Encalypta vulgaris*, *Tortula lanceola*, *T. modica* and *Trichostomum* spp. More rarely, it occurs on moister soils and on mildly acid substrates, as on bare soil in upland pastures and on heathland and heathy roadsides. At higher altitudes it has been recorded on basic soil among rocks in ravines and on montane crags. Altitudinal range: 0–580 m.

Autoicous; capsules are common but not constantly present, mature from winter to early summer.

It can be identified with certainty only when mature capsules are present and it may therefore be somewhat under-recorded. Most records of *W. brachycarpa* not assigned to a named variety refer to var. *obliqua* and have been mapped as such, provided that there is no record of var. *brachycarpa* in the same hectad.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Much of Europe north to C Scandinavia, but the wider distribution of var. *obliqua* is uncertain because it is not differentiated from var. *brachycarpa* in most floras and checklists.

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