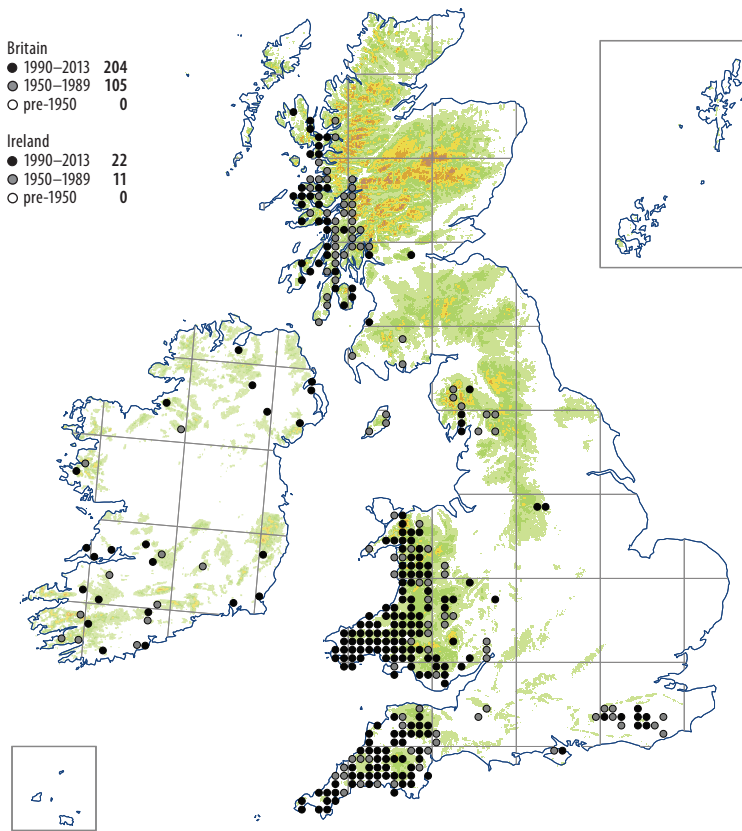


# Fissidens celticus



A very small moss occurring as scattered or gregarious plants on unstable or eroded substrates in shade. It grows on bare fine-textured acid mineral soil and on soil-covered rocks, mainly on steep banks by streams and rivers or in woods and ravines, also on lane banks and coastal slopes, only rarely on banks in more open places such as pastures. It has also been found at the entrance to burrows and by other animal trackways. Its most characteristic associate is *Calypogeia arguta*, but others include *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Dicranella rufescens*, *Epipterygium tozeri*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Pohlia lutescens* and *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. Altitudinal range: 5–300 m.

Its distribution in SW England and Wales has been filled out since the 1991–1994 Atlas, but it surely remains under-recorded in NW England, SW Scotland and Ireland. The

isolated records in the Peak District and Pennines suggest that it may be also overlooked to the east of its core range further south.

Dioicous, only female plants are known. Rhizoidal tubers have been found in Spanish material (Guerra *et al.*, 2012) and are likely to occur in Britain and Ireland.

In spite of its small size, *F. celticus* is a distinctive species and surprisingly remained undetected until 1958, when it was discovered in Pembrokeshire by A.H. Norkett; it was described as a new species by Paton (1965).

Oceanic Temperate. Apparently endemic to W Europe, in France, Belgium, W Germany and recently found in N Spain (Guipúzcoa).

A.J.E. Smith, rev. T.L. Blockeel

