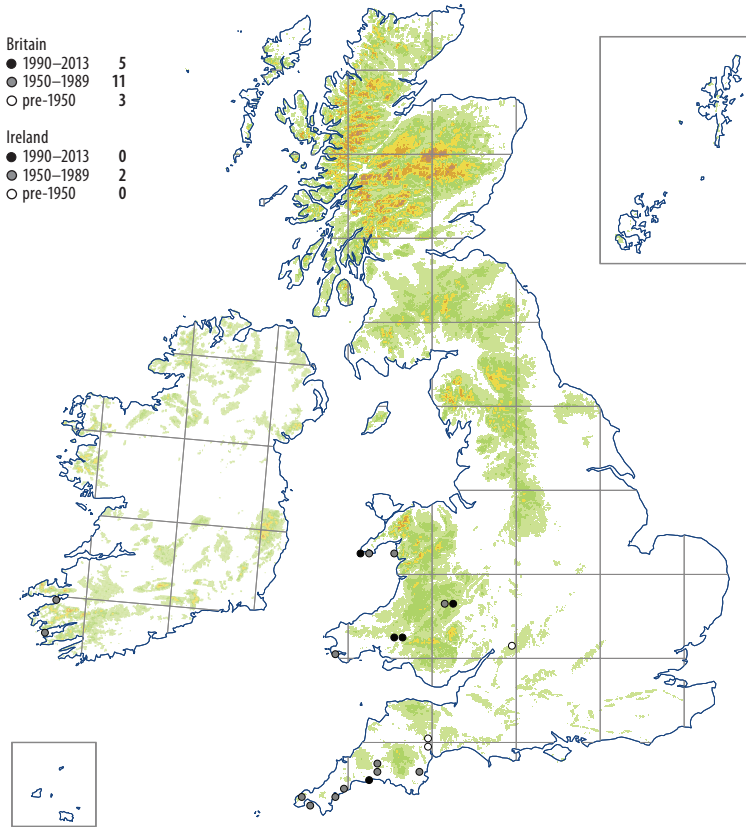


Fissidens curvatus



A species of acid to neutral soils on sheltered but not heavily shaded banks. Habitats includes coastal slopes, grassy and rocky hillsides, woodland, lanes and roadsides, and a ditch bank. Underlying rock types include slates, shales and Ordovician limestone. At one site in Carmarthenshire it occurred on an ant-hill on soil overhung by grasses, and one of the Irish records was from an earth/stone wall. Recorded associates include *Epipterygium tozeri*, *Fissidens viridulus* and *Weissia* spp. Altitudinal range: 40–290 m.

The records indicate a serious decline, and the species has not been found at some of its old sites in spite of targeted searches. One site in Cornwall was destroyed by quarrying, and lack of grazing in coastal areas may have reduced the availability of open ground. However, as a colonist of bare soil *F. curvatus* may always have been somewhat sporadic

and impermanent in occurrence. It is an inconspicuous moss and may be overlooked.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, maturing from winter to spring.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Widely distributed but rare in S and W Europe from the Iberian Peninsula and France east to Greece (including Crete). Macaronesia, N Africa (Morocco to Tunisia). Turkey, Iran. Widespread in warmer regions of the world. Asia (including India, China, Japan, Philippines). N America (California), West Indies, C and S America. C and S Africa. Australia and New Zealand.

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