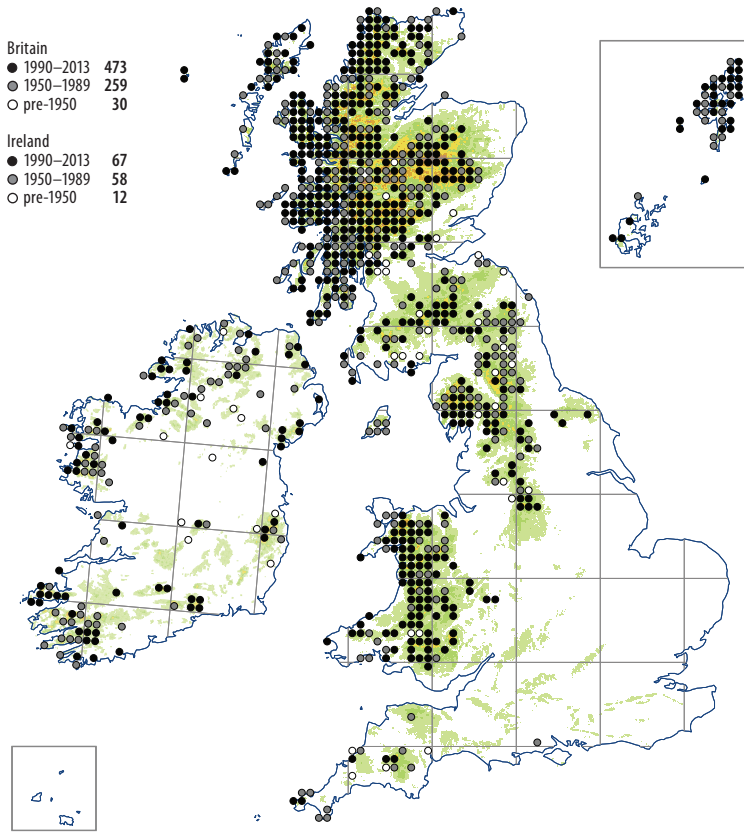


Fissidens osmundoides



In dense tufts on moist ledges and crevices of cliffs, ravines and gullies, and on stones on flushed slopes and by streams, especially where slightly basic, often associated with *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Blindia acuta* and *Fissidens adianthoides*. An equally common habitat is in flushes, seepages and damp montane grassland, alongside species such as *Aneura pinguis*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Scorpidium revolvens*. It is most often found at montane and submontane levels but also in ravines in the lowlands, on sea cliffs, and on the bank of a streamlet in the New Forest. It is most characteristic of basic igneous rocks and sandstones, and is rare or absent on highly calcareous limestone. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional or rare, mature in summer. Rhizoidal tubers were found in four out of 10 specimens studied by Arts (1989a), from Belgium, Poland and Ireland (Connemara), and they are probably frequent elsewhere.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Europe north to Iceland and Svalbard, becoming rare and montane in the south, and absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Turkey. N Asia, from the high Arctic south to Kyrgyzstan and NE China, Japan. N America (south to Alabama and Georgia).

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

The records show an increasing trend from greater coverage in parts of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

