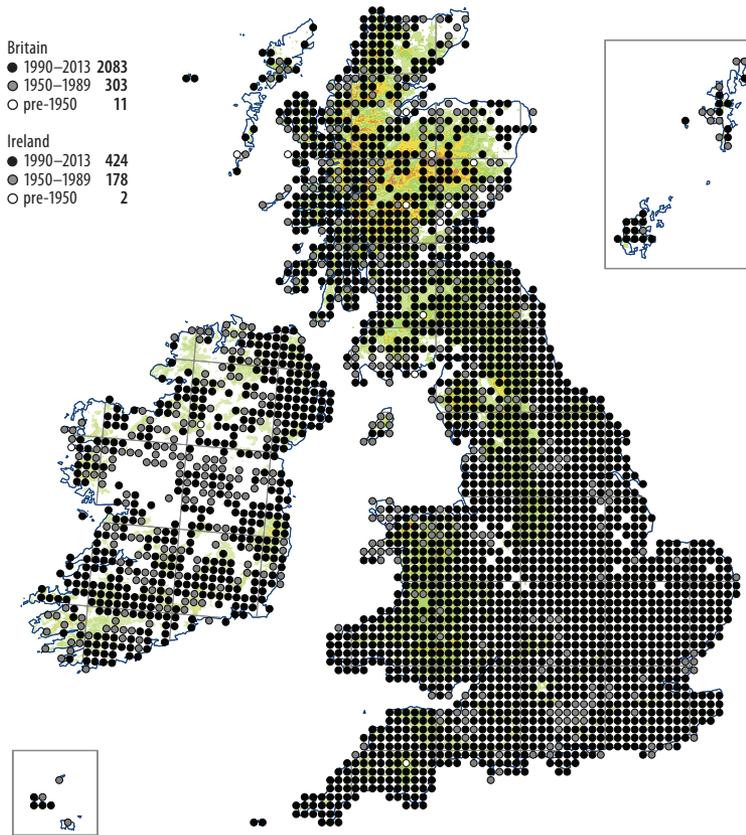


Fissidens taxifolius

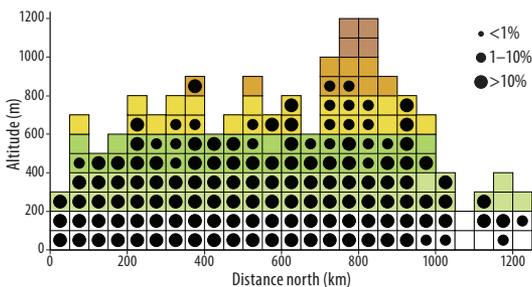


A common and characteristic moss of woodlands, growing on damp basic to slightly acid soil, and often especially abundant on clay. It is able to grow in quite deep shade, and is often associated with *Pellia epiphylla*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Kinbergia praelonga* and *Mnium hornum*. Occasionally it colonises logs and tree bases. It occurs on soil in many other shaded and sheltered habitats such as hedgebanks, stream and river banks, ditches, scrub, old pits and quarries, soil pockets on grassy banks and in chalk and limestone turf. In upland districts it is grows in wet rock crevices on crags, stream banks and ravine walls, often as a form with narrow leaf apices. It is also common on disturbed ground, in gardens and in arable fields, and is a definitive member of the *Brachythecium rutabulum*–*Fissidens taxifolius* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010). This assemblage is characteristic of a late successional stage on

ploughed land and is often found in set-aside fields and grass leys. Altitudinal range: 0–700 m.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional to frequent, mature from winter to early summer. Rhizoidal tubers are sometimes present, especially in disturbed habitats, and plants possessing them rarely if ever produce capsules. They require further investigation and may merit separate recognition.

Plants with acute leaf apices have been referred to var. *pallidicaulis*, which was described from Macaronesia, but it is unclear whether this identification is correct. The British and Irish plants assigned to it often occur in wet habitats on rocks and the shoots are sometimes almost twice the length of those of var. *taxifolius* on soil. They have not been recorded consistently and are not mapped separately here.



European Southern-temperate. Europe north to C Norway, Middle European Russia and the S Urals. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia and Caucasus, India, Himalaya, S Siberia to E Asia and Japan. N and C America, southern S America. St Helena, New Zealand (probably introduced). Var. *pallidicaulis* is reported widely in southern Europe as well as Macaronesia.

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