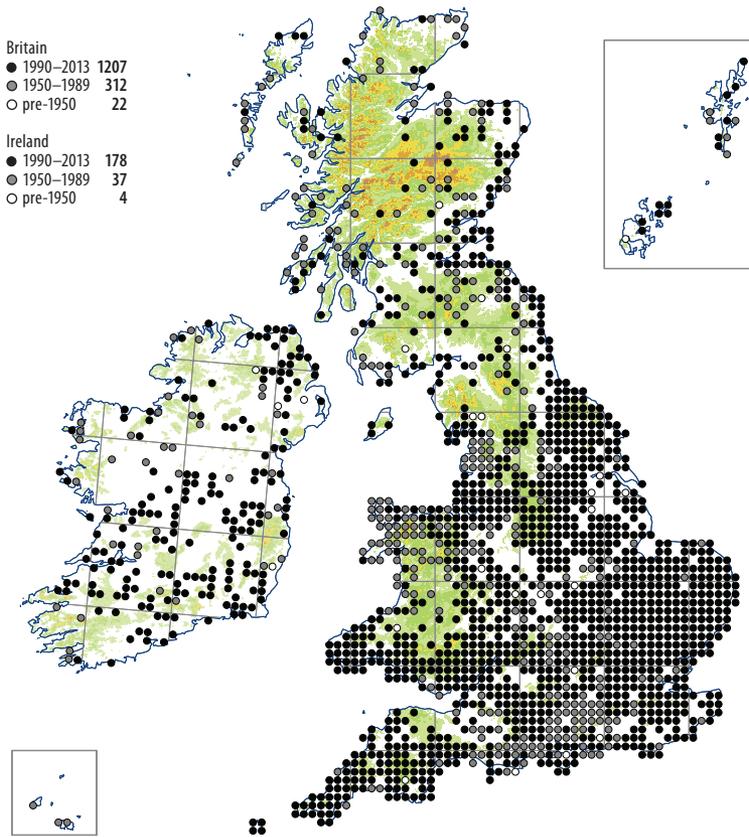


Pseudocrossidium hornschurchianum



The more natural habitats of *Pseudocrossidium hornschurchianum* are on well-drained and well-illuminated basic soils over rocks and on rock ledges, in thin chalk and limestone grassland, and on calcareous dune sand. However, in lowland regions it is one of the most common ruderal mosses of gravelly, gritty and sandy soils. Typical habitats include roadsides, tracks surfaced with hardcore or limestone rubble, pavement edges, driveways, paths, and churchyards, but it is rare on tarmac and concrete, except where these are crumbling and have accumulated soil. It also occurs in old quarries, and gravel/sand pits. It tends to grow on bare ground kept open by trampling and other agencies rather than on regularly disturbed soil, and is thus rare in arable fields. It rarely persists in shade. On paths and tracks it may penetrate into otherwise inhospitable areas such as moorland. *Barbula convoluta* is a common associate

in ruderal habitats, but it is sometimes abundant in the absence of that species. Other weedy associates include *Bryum argenteum*, *B. dichotomum*, *B. ruderale*, *Barbula unguiculata* and *Cratoneuron filicinum*. Altitudinal range: 0–535 m.

There has been a large increase in records in the past two decades, but this is partly due to systematic recording of ruderal habitats, which were often ignored in earlier times. However the authors of some of the older bryophyte floras regarded it as a rare species, e.g. Wheldon & Wilson (1907) in West Lancashire, and Linton (1903) in Derbyshire, although it is now common in both those counties. Its abundance in ruderal habitats may therefore be a relatively recent phenomenon.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Euro Siberian Southern-temperate. Widespread in Europe, especially in the southern, central and western parts, becoming rare in the north, to W Norway S Sweden and the Baltic States. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, to Kyrgyzstan (perhaps further east but many records refer to *P. obtusulum* (Lindb.) H.A. Crum & L.E. Anderson). Very rare in N America (probably introduced, at least in some stations). Ethiopia, South Africa. Australia, Tasmania.

T.L. Blockeel

