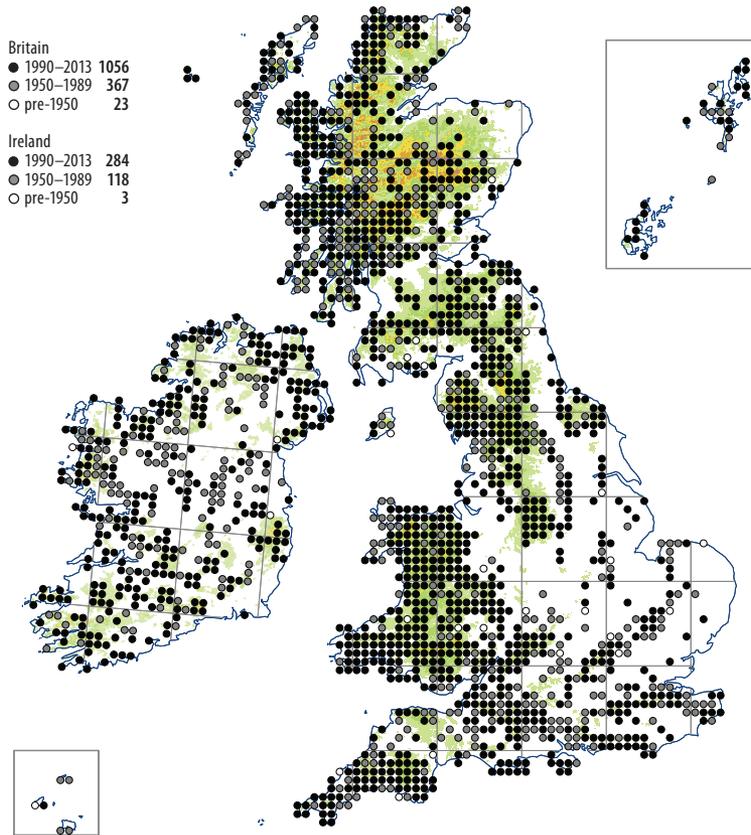


# Fissidens dubius



A characteristic moss in crevices and on thin soil on limestone and other calcareous rocks, both in light to moderate shade in woodlands and on open crags, screes and limestone pavements, including exposed sunny outcrops, where curiously, in spite of its common occurrence, it often appears to be stressed. *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Syntrichia montana*, *Trichostomum crispulum* and *Tortella tortuosa* are common associates. It is equally common on many other types of basic rock, including igneous rocks, sandstones and gritstones, occasionally occurring on relatively base-poor rocks, especially in the west or on banks with seeping water, and in such places it is sometimes robust and luxuriant. It is widespread on man-made substrates, especially mortared walls and bridges, concrete wall-cappings and other forms of old concrete. Softer substrates include bare ground and short turf on chalk and limestone, calcareous sand

on fixed dunes, the floors of old pits and quarries, and old mine waste. In regions with high rainfall and in sheltered limestone valleys it occasionally colonises the trunks of larger trees such as oak and ash. In some acidic oceanic woodlands it is restricted to ash and oak bases by streams. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

The records show an increasing trend from greater coverage in many northern and western regions.

Autoicous or dioicous; capsules are occasional to frequent, often abundant when present, mature from winter to spring. Rhizoidal tubers, which remain viable for up to 20 months in dried herbarium specimens, have been found in non-fruiting Belgian, French and Swiss specimens (Arts, 1986a); they are probably frequent in Britain and Ireland. As with *Fissidens taxifolius*, gemmae and capsules appear to be mutually exclusive.

Although usually distinct from *F. adianthoides*, occasional forms, especially in turf, appear intermediate and have been variously interpreted by recorders.

European Temperate. Most of Europe north to Iceland, W Norway and NW Russia. Macaronesia, N Africa. Cyprus, Turkey, Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Iran, Himalaya, E and SE Asia, Japan. N and C America, West Indies.

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