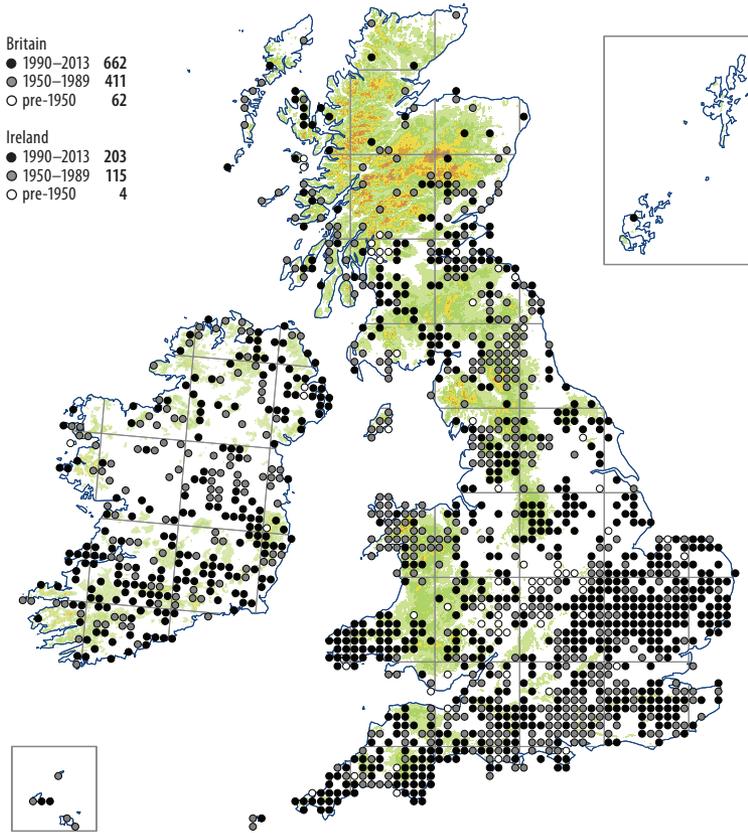


Pseudocrossidium revolutum



A mainly lowland species, occurring in the crevices of calcareous rocks in well-illuminated places. Its natural habitats include limestone and other base-rich cliffs and crags, and it also colonises old quarries and cuttings. It also occurs rather rarely on chalk banks and on hard or stony ground. In general, however, it is commoner on old walls than on natural rock, often on mortar where the building stone is non-calcareous, or on churchyard monuments made of Oolitic or other limestones, and porous sandstone. It is therefore widespread in areas where the underlying rock is acid; indeed in some districts it is confined to man-made habitats. Common associates include *Barbula convoluta* var. *sardoa*, *Bryum capillare*, *B. radiculosum*, *Tortula muralis* and *Zygodon viridissimus*. Altitudinal range: 0–560 m.

It was rather thinly recorded in many counties in the 1991–1994 Atlas. Coverage is now much better, from increased recording in villages and churchyards, but remains uneven.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in winter and spring. Leaf gemmae are rarely reported but Whitehouse (1964) found that they were frequent in Cambridgeshire. Rhizoidal tubers are apparently common in Belgium and France (Arts, 1988) but have not yet been confirmed in Britain or Ireland. Whitehouse (1987) and Arts (1988) have found protonemal gemmae in culture.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. S, W and C Europe, north to S Sweden and Estonia, east to Ukraine. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, east to Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Replaced in N America by the closely related *Pseudocrossidium obtusulum* (Lindb.) H.A. Crum & L.E. Anderson, which also occurs in continental Europe and Asia.

T.L. Blockeel

