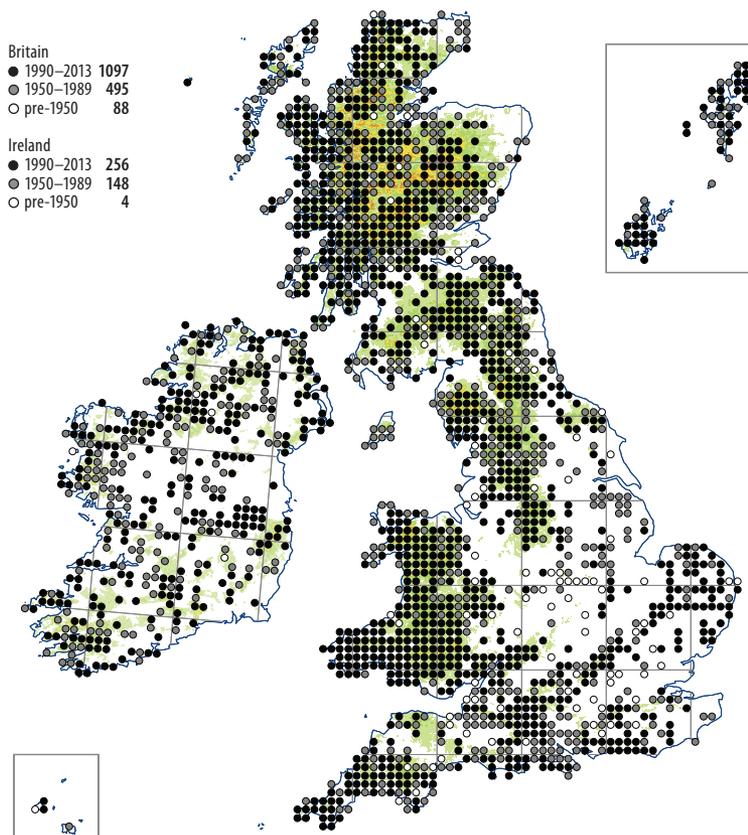


Fissidens adianthoides

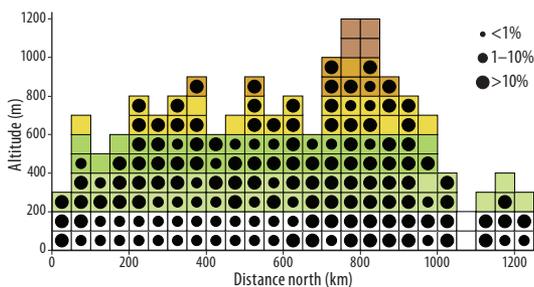


A robust species forming dense to lax, sometimes extensive, tufts up to 10 cm tall. It is characteristic of damp or wet habitats, usually where the water is basic, being found especially on wet or dripping rock faces, and on ledges and in crevices of cliffs with associates such as *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Blindia acuta* and *Palustriella commutata*. In wet base-rich environments it may extend onto rotting wood and the lower parts of tree trunks. It colonises old mortared walls and concrete, especially where humid and sheltered, as well as rock cuttings, quarries, pits and mine spoil. An equally common habitat is in flushes, drainage channels, marshes, dune slacks and fens, where associates include *Aneura pinguis*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Scorpidium cossonii*. By the coast it grows in sea caves, cliffs and on flushed slopes, and on the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall it is found on wet heath

among tussocks of *Molinia caerulea* and *Schoenus nigricans* over serpentinite rocks. It is also widely reported from chalk and limestone grassland, generally in moister places than *Fissidens dubius*. In these drier habitats it is a calcicole. Altitudinal range: 0–900 m.

Autoicous or dioicous; capsules are occasional to frequent, winter to spring. Rhizoidal tubers are unknown, and Arts (1989a) failed to find them in specimens that he studied in spite of careful searching.

Populations from drier habitats, especially grassland, with unistratose leaves but small cells are problematic. They are often interpreted as stunted forms of *F. adianthoides*, but are also recorded as *F. dubius*. These inconsistencies particularly affect the mapping in southern and eastern regions.



Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa (Morocco, Algeria). Turkey, Caucasus. Circumboreal, reaching north to the high Arctic. Disjunct in the Southern Hemisphere, southern S America, Tasmania and New Zealand.

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