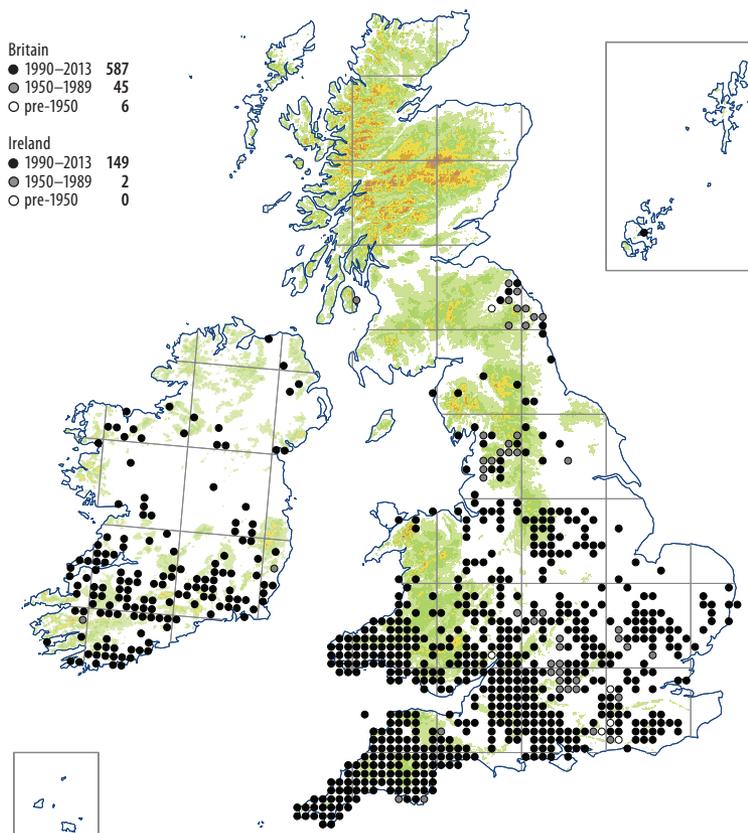


## *Didymodon nicholsonii*

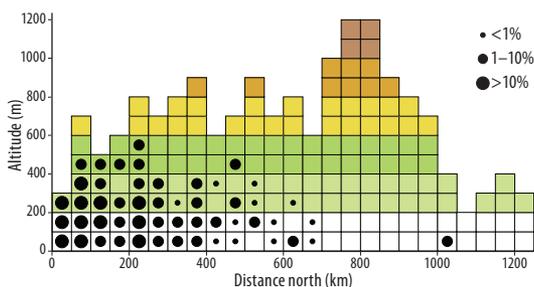


The natural habitat of this species is on stones and tree roots on the banks of streams and rivers where subject to periodic flooding. In such situations it is often embedded in alluvial sand and detritus, and may be associated with *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Didymodon insulanus*, *D. luridus*, *D. sinuosus*, *D. spadiceus* and *Leskea polycarpa*. It is also widespread on retaining walls and bridge supports by streams. Increasingly it has been recorded in recent decades as a colonist of old tarmac and churchyards, less often on gravelly ground, associated with other ruderal species such as *Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum argenteum*, *Dialytrichia mucronata*, *Didymodon insulanus*, and *Syntrichia latifolia*. It is now common in such places in many parts of lowland Britain. Altitudinal range: 0–390 m.

The increase in records from ruderal habitats represents a genuine change in frequency. Even in some well-worked counties it was recorded exclusively from riverine habitats until recently, e.g. in North Lancashire (Wigginton, 1995). It has undergone a similar increase in western Europe, for example in Germany (Frahm, 2005).

Dioicous; populations are usually female and sporophytes have been reported only once, in Oxfordshire (Corley *et al.*, 1987). Whitehouse (1987) found protonemal gemmae in culture, but the occurrence of axillary gemmae requires confirmation. Smith (2004) reports them in material from continental Europe and Frahm (2005) from Germany, but Jiménez (2006) was not able to find them in any of the material studied by him. Frahm (2005) indicates that they were only present along the Rhine during the initial phase of colonisation. Rhizoidal tubers and leaf gemmae have been reported from Belgium (Arts, 1987a) and Germany (Meinunger & Schröder, 2007).

Suboceanic Temperate. At one time thought to be confined to Britain and Ireland *D. nicholsonii* is now known from many parts of W and S Europe, north to the Netherlands and Germany, east to Greece, and is also reported from the Canary Islands, North Africa (Algeria), Turkey and Afghanistan. Western N America.



*T.L. Blockeel*