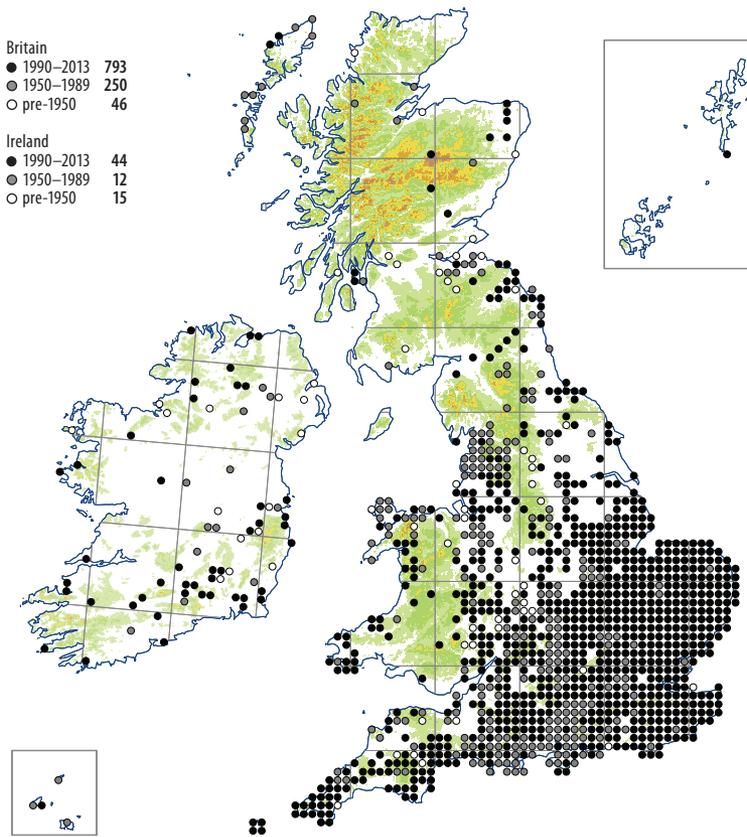


Didymodon vinealis



This species occurs in dry habitats on base-rich rocks and walls, including brick and sandstone, often with a thin layer of soil but also directly on the substrate. It also colonises artificial surfaces, including concrete and roof tiles. It is apparently less common on natural outcrops of limestone and other basic rocks. In some districts it is frequent on well-drained hard or stony calcareous ground and in short dry turf, including sandy dune grassland, coastal slopes and cliff tops, chalk and limestone grassland, less often on stony tracks, crumbling concrete and similar places. Altitudinal range: 0–475 m.

Diocious; capsules are rare, maturing in spring and summer.

The species has not been recorded consistently, as bryologists have had different interpretations of it. It is often confused with *Didymodon insulanus*, sometimes also with *D. acutus* and *D. fallax*, and there is likely to be a significant number of erroneous records.

European Southern-temperate. Common in Europe, north to Iceland, S Sweden, Estonia and Belarus, and abundant in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. As currently understood, the morphological definition of *D. vinealis* includes a complex of species whose distribution and taxonomy are not yet fully clarified (J. Kučera, *pers. comm.*). This concerns European plants to which the name *Didymodon eckeliae* R.H. Zander has been applied, and perhaps also the correct application of the name *D. insulanus*. For these reasons its global distribution is unclear. It is reported from C and S Asia, Japan and N, C and S America.

T.L. Blockeel

