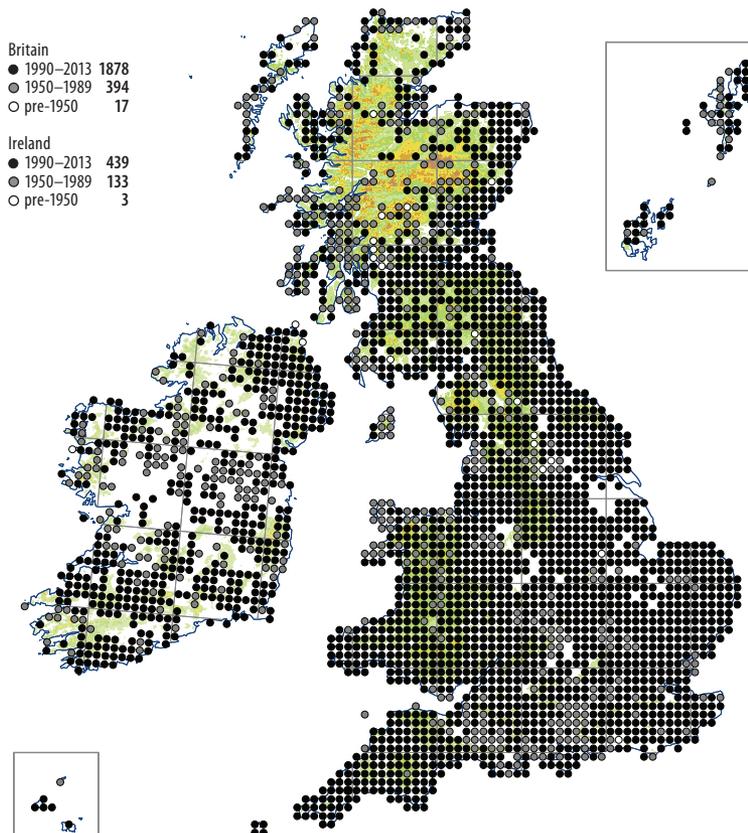


Didymodon insulanus



This species generally occurs in moister habitats than the closely related *Didymodon vinealis*, and on a wider range of substrates. It is common on hard surfaces such as rocks, stones, tree bases and roots, both in natural and man-made habitats, but it also occurs on soil. Its more natural habitats include base-rich woodland, rocky stream and river banks, and the bases of crags. It is often in light to moderate shade, but occurs out in the open where there is some shelter or moisture. By rivers it is also a common member of the community found on silty tree bases and roots in the flood zone, often accompanied by *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Leskea polycarpa*, *Orthotrichum diaphanum*, *Tortula subulata*, *Syntrichia latifolia*, and more rarely *Orthotrichum sprucei*. It is very common in man-made habitats, being one of the most successful colonists of old tarmac and pavements, and on the sheltered sides of walls

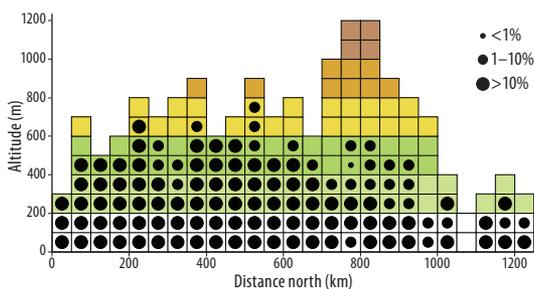
and at their bases, including brick and concrete. Its range of habitats on soil is also diverse, including tracksides, hedgebanks, arable fields, mine spoil, coastal slopes and grassy dunes. With such a wide range of habitats it also has a huge range of common associates. Altitudinal range: 0–510 m.

It is one of several *Didymodon* species with a steadily increasing trend in records, partly due to recording in ruderal habitats, churchyards and villages.

Dioicous; capsules are rather rare, maturing in summer. Rhizoidal tubers are known (Ellis & Smith, 1983; Holyoak, 2012) but they do not appear to be common.

Forms of *D. fallax* with flexuose leaves are sometimes recorded for it in error but there are likely to be very few inaccuracies in the overall distribution.

Eurasian Southern-temperate. As understood here (see the note under *D. vinealis*), it occurs widely in Europe, north to Iceland and C Scandinavia, east to the Baltic States, Ukraine and the Caucasus, but is less common than *D. vinealis* in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. Scattered reports in C and E Asia. N, C and S America (but often included in *D. vinealis* there). C Africa.



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