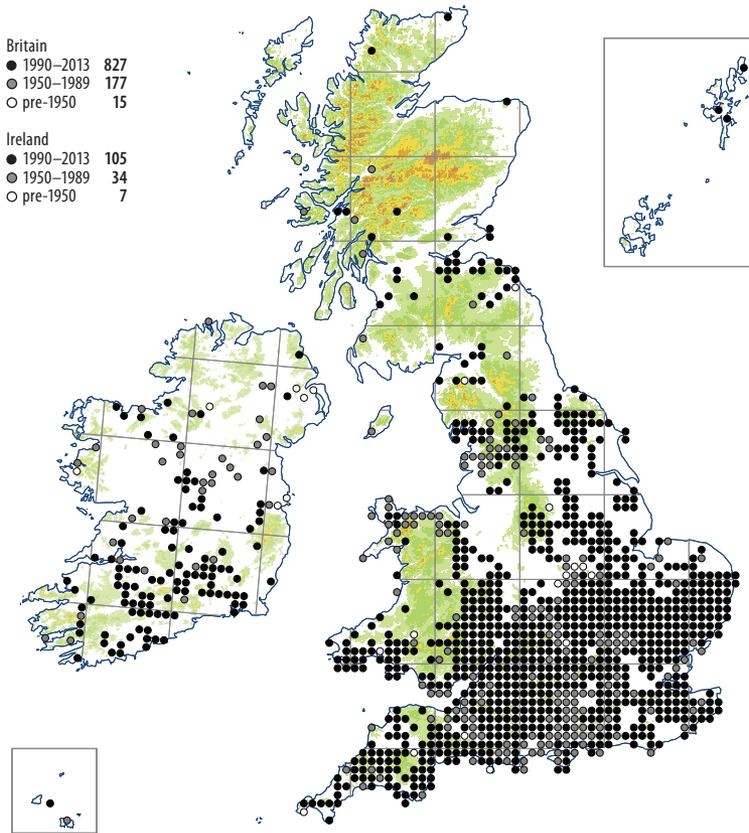


# Didymodon sinuosus



Moist calcareous rocks, and sometimes also tree bases and roots, on the banks of streams and rivers are a characteristic habitat of this species, especially in limestone districts. It forms lax but sometimes extensive patches, typically in somewhat shaded places, and may occur within the flood zone embedded in alluvial sand. In this habitat it is often associated with *Didymodon insulanus*, *Hygrohypnum luridum*, *Leskea polycarpa* and *Syntrichia latifolia*. However it is also widespread on calcareous and base-rich substrates remote from water, usually where there is some shade or shelter, e.g. on stones, rocks and about tree roots in base-rich woodland and hedgebanks, on the bases and sometimes the upper parts of old walls and bridges, and on concrete, paving, and occasionally old tarmac. It is frequently found in the shelter of walls in churchyards. Altitudinal range: 0–350 m.

Like *D. luridus*, this species has seen a steadily increasing trend in records, partly due to recording in churchyards and villages. Its coverage in S Britain is now very much more complete than in the 1991–1994 Atlas and there has been a marked increase in records in Ireland.

Diocious; capsules are unknown, all populations apparently being female. The leaf apices are fragile and presumably serve as a means of propagation; gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987) and have recently been detected in the wild (Hill, 2012).

It is sometimes confused with *Trichostomum tenuirostre*, but errors in the overall distribution are likely to be few.

Suboceanic Mediterranean-Atlantic. In Europe north to S Sweden and Poland, east to Ukraine and Caucasus, south to the Mediterranean region. Turkey, Lebanon, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

T.L. Blockeel

