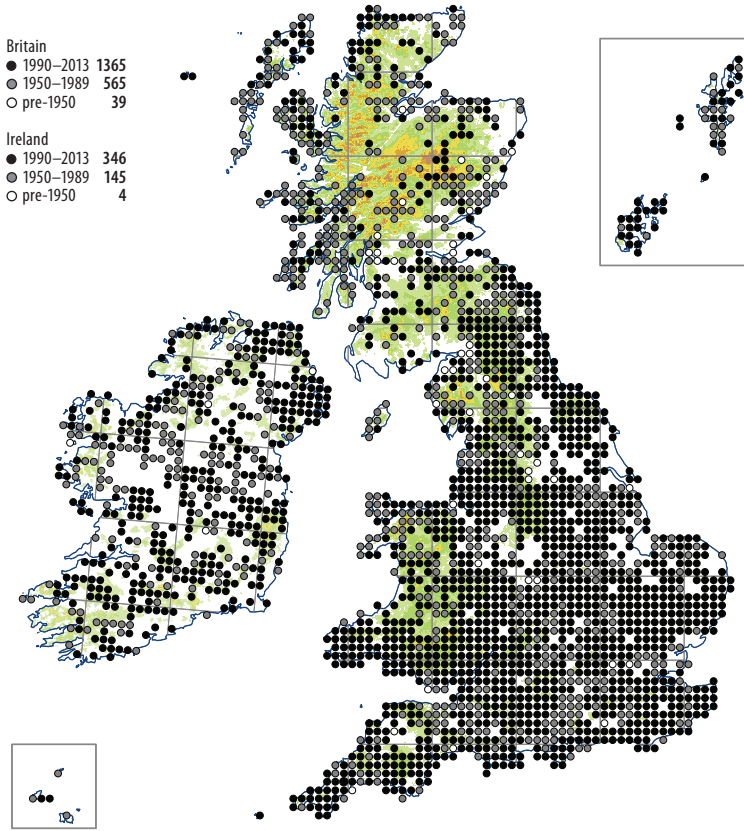


Didymodon fallax



This is a moss of open ground on neutral to base-rich soils. It occurs on bare ground in calcareous grassland and scrub, on roadside embankments, on tracks, paths, roadsides and gravelly driveways, and in old quarries and pits, occasionally on the banks of streams and rivers. It is also characteristic of sand flats and fixed dunes, often on shell-sand, and bare clay by ditches, ponds, streams and on landslips. On limestone and other basic rock it is found on earthy banks and ledges, and on quarry spoil. Common associates include *Barbula convoluta*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*, *Dicranella varia* and *Pseudocrossidium hornsuschianum*. It encroaches into otherwise acid environments alongside tracks and unsealed roads, where basic material has been used as hardcore. Altitudinal range: 0–740 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, maturing in winter and spring. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

As defined in Europe *Didymodon fallax* consists of at least three distinct lineages whose taxonomy requires further investigation (J. Kučera, *pers. comm.*).

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Common over most of Europe, becoming rare in the far north but reaching Iceland and Svalbard. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Near East, Iraq, Iran. Widespread across the Northern Hemisphere, south to Taiwan and Mexico. S America (Peru).

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