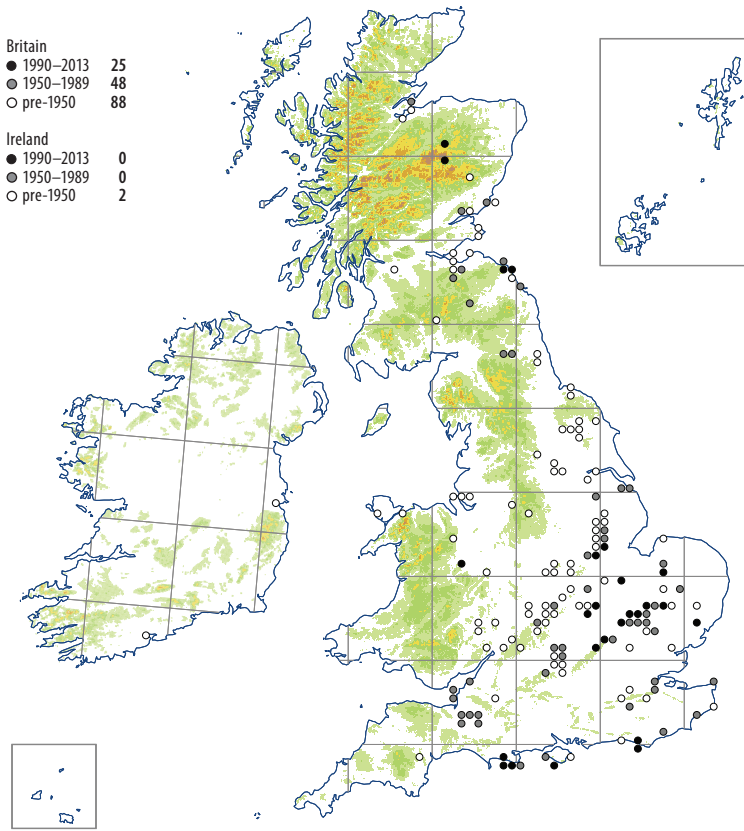


Pterygoneurum ovatum



A plant of open habitats on chalk, limestone and other basic substrates, growing on banks, among rocks, in thin calcareous grassland, in pits and quarries, and on sea cliffs. *Aloina* spp. are common associates, and at some coastal sites in southern England it grows with *Acaulon triquetrum*. In the uplands in Scotland it occurs in places with a cool, somewhat continental climate, in drought-tolerant communities on calcareous slopes where open ground is maintained by natural erosion and frost-heave. Although often on relatively stable ground, it also occurs on freshly disturbed soil on tracks and excavated ground, and it has been recorded exceptionally from stubble fields and pondside mud. It was formerly one of the most characteristic colonists of newly mud-capped calcareous walls, and became increasingly rare with the disappearance of that habitat. Altitudinal range: 0–390 m.

It suffered a major decline during the 20th century, but records have shown a more steady (if fluctuating) trend since 1990, perhaps because its occurrence is now stabilised in semi-natural habitats.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in late autumn and winter.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Much of Europe, north to southern Scandinavia. Madeira, N Africa. Turkey, Near and Middle East. Chiefly a plant of semi-arid regions. W and C Asia, China. N America (mainly western and central), southern Patagonia. Australia, New Zealand (introduced). Antarctica.

T.L. Blockeel

