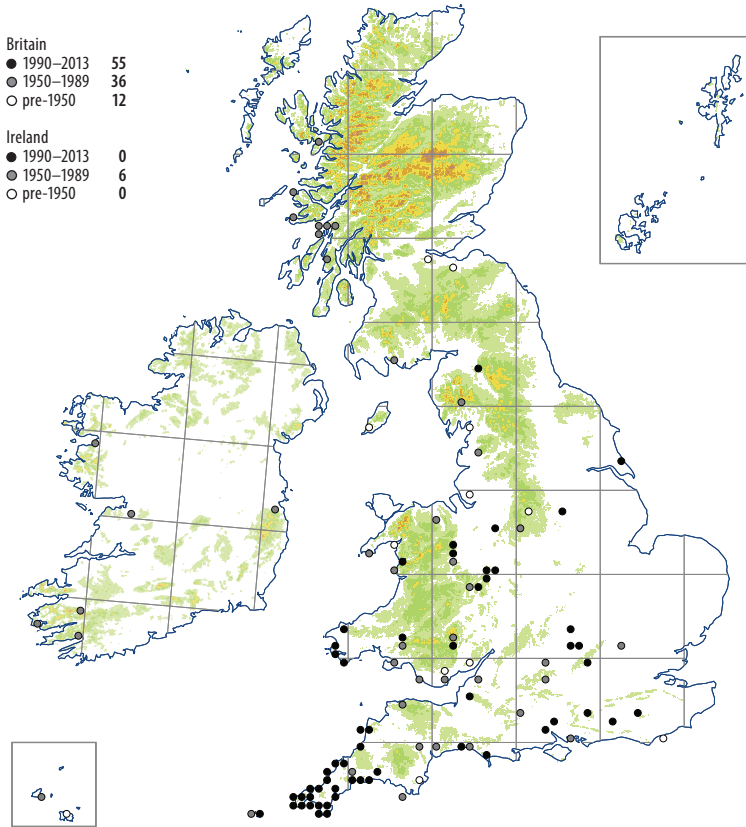


Fissidens crispus



On calcareous to slightly acid substrates in sheltered but not wet habitats, growing on bare or compacted soil or on thin soil over rock, including limestone and sandstone. Its recorded habitats are diverse. Many records are from banks and recesses in woods, by lanes and on Cornish hedges, especially near the coast, where it also grows on sea cliffs. Other habitats include stream banks and ditches, shaded boulders, mortar in stone walls, and rabbit holes. It is occasionally found in rather dense shade but more commonly in lightly shaded or unshaded sites. It sometimes grows alongside *Fissidens viridulus*. Altitudinal range: 15–175 m.

Dioicous, autoicous or synoicous; capsules are abundant, autumn to spring.

Fissidens crispus was not distinguished in Britain and Ireland until Corley (1980) recognised it as *F. limbatus* Sull. in his account of the *F. viridulus* complex. It is a difficult taxon, and there appears to be no clear morphological discontinuity in our islands between it and *F. viridulus* and there are likely to be inconsistencies in the records. Nevertheless *F. crispus* is presumably under-recorded because identification relies primarily on cell size and shape, although its overall scarcity may be genuine.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. W and S Europe, east to Czech Republic and Crimea. Macaronesia, N Africa. Widespread in SW Asia, N, C and S America. However its precise distribution is unclear because of taxonomic uncertainties.

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