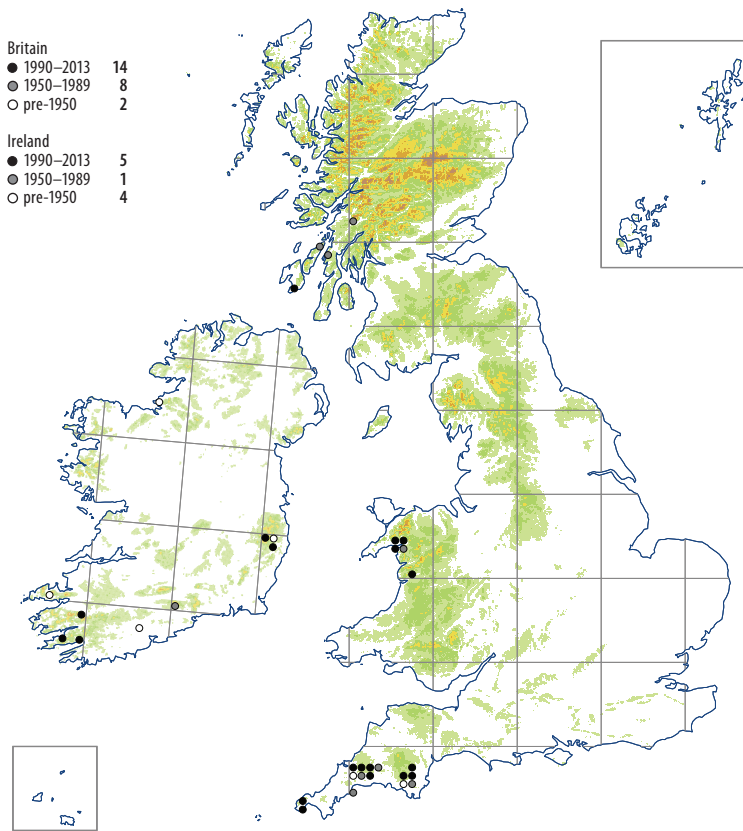


# Fissidens polyphyllus



**A** robust moss forming dark green patches, sometimes extensive, on rocks and hard-packed soil by streams and waterfalls, normally a little above normal water level. Localities are usually shaded, sometimes densely so, and only rarely in more exposed places, as by streams in rough pasture. It occurs occasionally away from water on earth and among rocks in humid woodland. Associated species may include *Marsupella emarginata*, *Heterocladium heteropterum*, *H. wulfsbergii*, *Hycomium armoricum* and *Trichostomum tenuirostre*. It is also known from a number of sea caves, in one of which (in Cornwall) it grows near to *Cyclodictyon laetevirens*; other habitats include rocks on the margins of lakes, and dripping iron-stained rocks by mine adits. Altitudinal range: 5–260 m.

In spite of its restricted distribution, it occurs in great profusion at some of its sites.

Dioicous, only male plants are known in Britain and Ireland. Rhizoidal tubers have been found in a Welsh specimen and may be frequent (Arts, 1989a).

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Spain, Portugal, W France, Italy, north to extreme SW Norway. Macaronesia (Madeira, Canary Islands). Also reported from European Turkey.

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