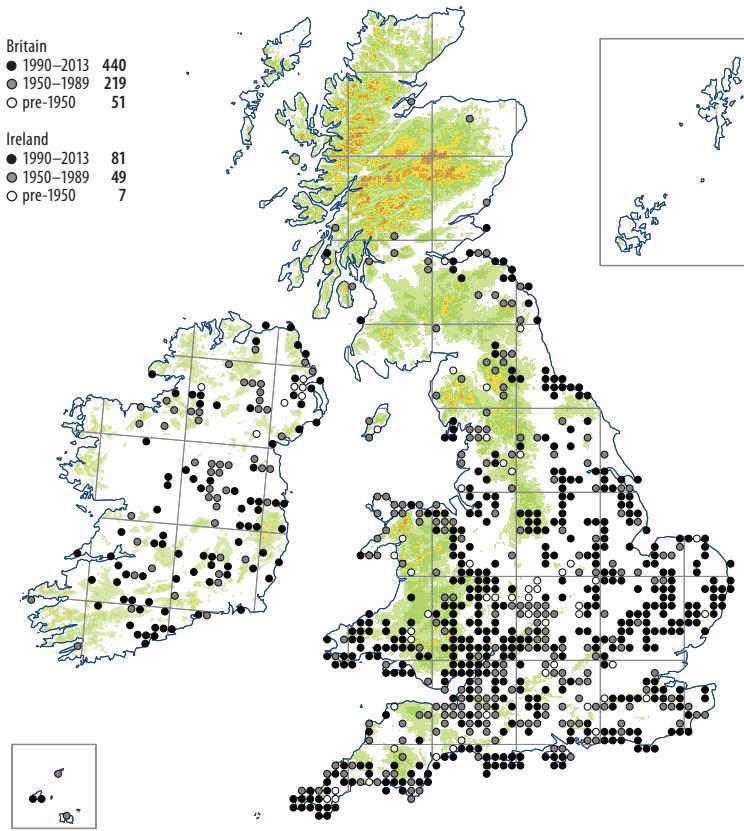


# Aloina aloides

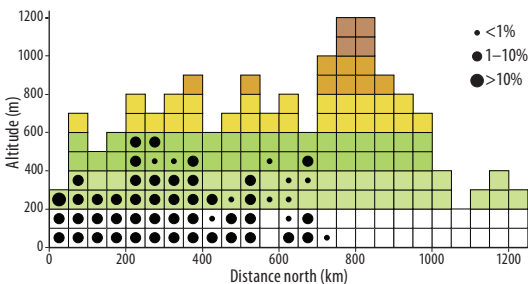


A species of bare but not regularly disturbed ground and soil in a variety of situations, usually base-rich, but occasionally on ground that appears to be circumneutral. The most characteristic habitat is in old pits and quarries on chalk and limestone, growing on the floor or on earthy rock ledges, but it is also frequent in some districts on old or weathered mortar on walls and ruined buildings. Regular associates in these habitats include *Barbula convoluta*, *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Dicranella varia*, *Didymodon fallax* and *Trichostomum brachydontium*. It is occasionally found on bare patches in calcareous grassland and on soil on natural rock outcrops; other habitats include chalky and earthy banks by lanes, coastal slopes and cliffs, clay in brick pits, calcareous dune sand and gravel, and path edges and earthy rubble (here often only as a temporary colonist). Sometimes it is found directly on soft rock such as

base-rich sandstone. It occurred formerly with *Aloina rigida* on mud-capped walls. Altitudinal range: 0–460 m.

*Aloina aloides* was rather sparsely recorded in the 1991–1994 Atlas. The increase in records since then is due to more comprehensive coverage in many lowland counties and in disturbed habitats.

Diocous; capsules are abundant, mature in late autumn to spring. Goode *et al.* (1994) found that *A. aloides* has a distinctive protonema that consists of only 4–6 widely spreading axes with occasional leafy shoots, explaining the scattered growth of the plants in nature. On desiccation the protonema produces drought-resistant brood cells, and the cells of the lamellae (which are brittle and easily dislodged when desiccated leaves are wetted) also function as asexual propagules.



The map shows only records designated *A. aloides* s.s. It is likely that its distribution is slightly under-represented on the map, because not all recorders have distinguished *A. aloides* s.s. from *A. ambigua*.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Most of Europe, north to S Scandinavia, common in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, east to Tajikistan. Reports from N America may belong to *A. ambigua*.

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