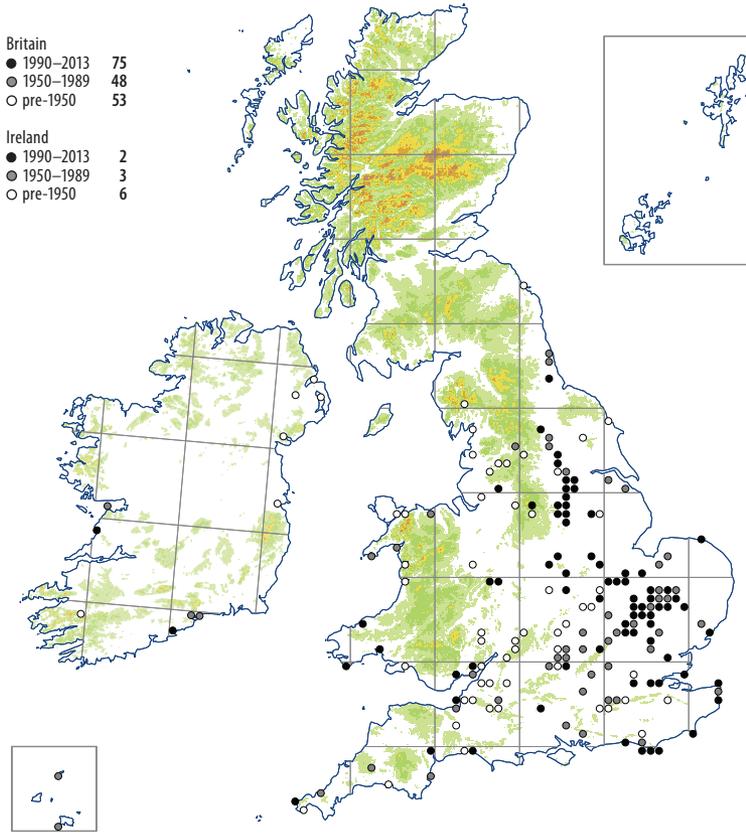


Aloina ambigua

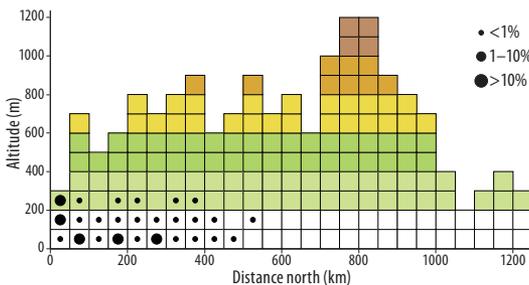


Occurring in similar habitats to *Aloina aloides* and sometimes associated with it, but favouring areas with a warmer, drier climate. The ecological distinction between the two species is obscure. A frequent habitat is in short turf and on bare patches in chalk grassland, in old chalk pits and on disturbed chalky soil, although Hill & Edwards (2003) did not find it on chalk in Dorset, and in Cambridgeshire it is more often found on clay and gravel. Associates on chalk may include *Barbula unguiculata*, *Didymodon acutus*, *Microbryum rectum*, *Pseudocrossidium hornschurchianum* and *Tortula lanceola*. Further north in England it occurs in similar habitats on Magnesian Limestone, but there are very few records from Carboniferous Limestone. Other substrates include calcareous clay (e.g. on coastal undercliffs, and in brick pits), calcareous sandstone boulders, sandy gravel, a dune slack, and old walls, heaps of rubble and old concrete.

Like other *Aloina* species it occurred formerly on mud-capped walls, and in Kent it has been recorded recently on a green roof constructed with soil excavated from adjacent building ground (Hill, 2006). Altitudinal range: 0–220 m.

Dioicous; capsules are abundant, mature in late autumn to spring. Protonemal brood cells presumably occur, as in *A. aloides* (Goode *et al.*, 1994).

Although correctly interpreted in the mid 19th century, it was misunderstood by H.N. Dixon and consequently many old records have proved to be incorrect. They are mapped here only if confirmed microscopically from herbarium material. Occasional populations appear to intergrade with *A. aloides*, and there may be some inconsistencies in recording.



Submediterranean-Subatlantic. S and C Europe north to Denmark and Belarus. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia to Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. South-west USA., Mexico. Australia.

T.L. Blockeel