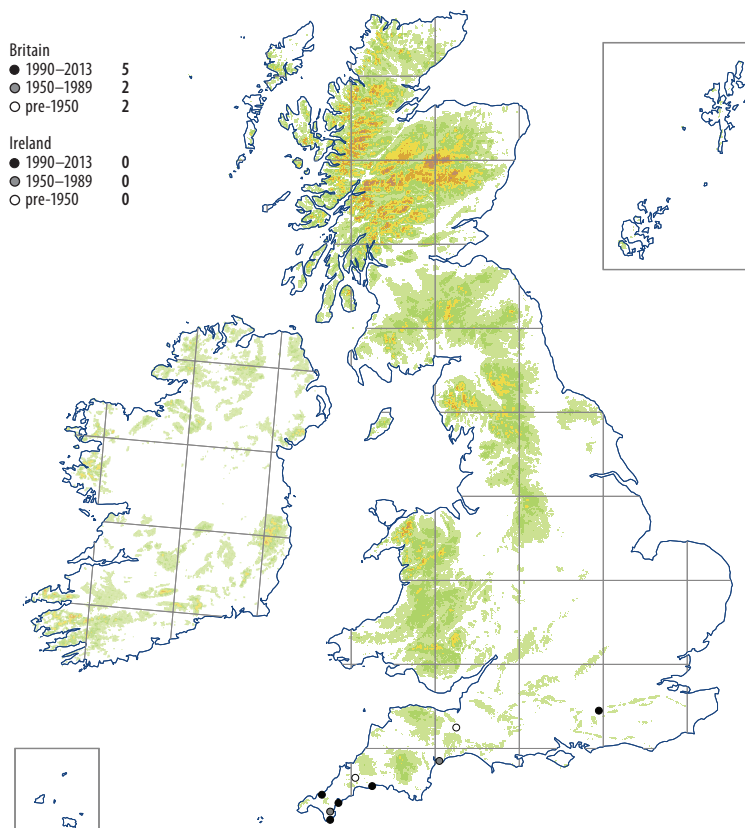


Acaulon mediterraneum



The habitats of this species on bare, base-deficient soil are very similar to those of *Acaulon muticum*, to which it is closely related. In Cornwall it has been recorded from moist bare soil on cliff-top paths and in coastal heathland, on the edge of a wet track, in grassland close to gorse scrub on a south-facing slope trampled by cattle, on thin soil over slaty rocks in a pasture, and on soil on a Cornish 'hedge'. Recorded associates include *Bryum dichotomum*, *Bryum rubens*, *Ephemerum minutissimum*, *Pleurozium acuminatum*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum*, *Tortula truncata* and *Trichodon cylindricus* (Holyoak, 2012). In Devon it was collected from bare places in a field on a coastal headland near Budleigh Salterton (growing with *Ephemerum serratum*), and in Surrey on rabbit-disturbed sandy soil. Only the old record from Somerset is from a fallow field. Altitudinal range: 35–75 m.

Rhizautoicous; capsules are common, mature in winter. Gemmae are unknown.

Acaulon mediterraneum has only recently been recognised as distinct from *A. muticum* in Britain. Hill (1982) drew attention to it but it was not accepted as a distinct taxon until Holyoak (2003a) reassessed British material. It probably remains under-recorded, but its restriction to southern localities may be genuine. Some of the old Irish records of *A. muticum* s.l. could have been of this species.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. In Europe apparently frequent in the Mediterranean region (but not always distinguished from *A. muticum*), northwards to England; also in southern Sweden. Macaronesia (Canary Islands), N Africa (Morocco). Turkey. Southern Australia.

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