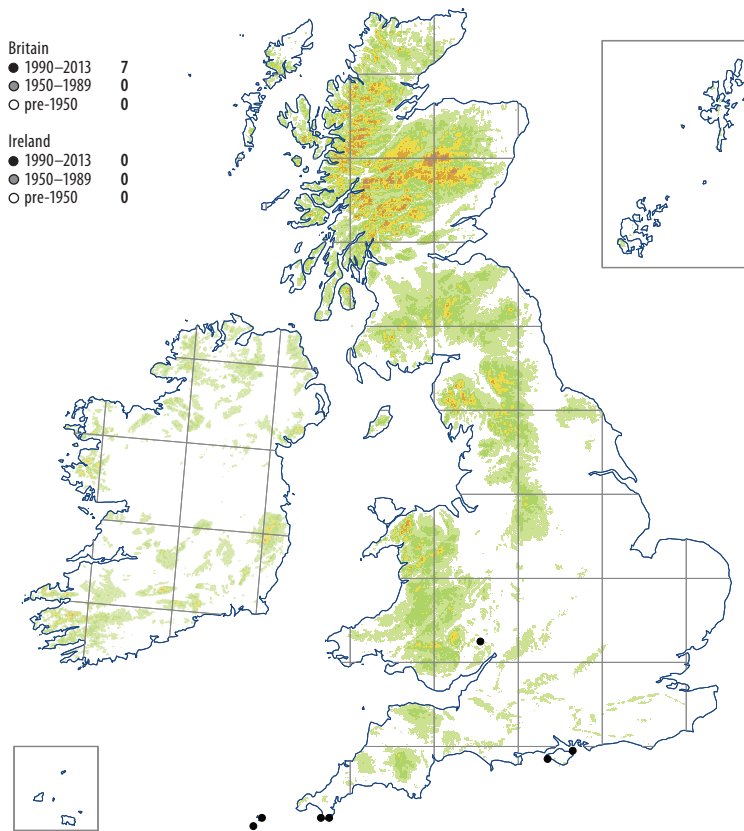


Leptophascum leptophyllum



A primary colonist of bare, neutral to slightly acid soils. Its first British record (on the Isle of Wight) was in a stubble field, and most subsequent records have been from cultivated ground. On the Isles of Scilly it occurs in bulb fields, and in Herefordshire it was found in wheat stubble. Other records are all from ruderal habitats, including bare gravelly soil on a coastal bank derived from granite, a path on clay, and on cliff-top paths on the Lizard Peninsula. Altitudinal range: 10–110 m.

Leptophascum is almost certainly introduced in Britain, where it was first found in 1964; since then records have been sporadic and do not show any clear trend.

Dioicous; only female plants are known in Britain. Rhizoidal tubers are abundant. Vegetative reproduction may also take place by leaves, which are very readily detached in at

least some populations, including those in Scilly (Preston & Finch, 2006).

It is easily overlooked and may be under-recorded, but it appears to be at the limits of its climatic tolerance here and its rarity is undoubtedly genuine.

Oceanic Southern-temperate. In Europe known from Spain, Portugal and Italy north-east to Germany and Poland. Widespread in Macaronesia. Outside Europe it is known (under many different names) from widely scattered localities mainly in warm temperate and subtropical regions of Asia, Japan, America (from the southern USA through C and S America to Argentina) and Africa. Hawaii. Australia.

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