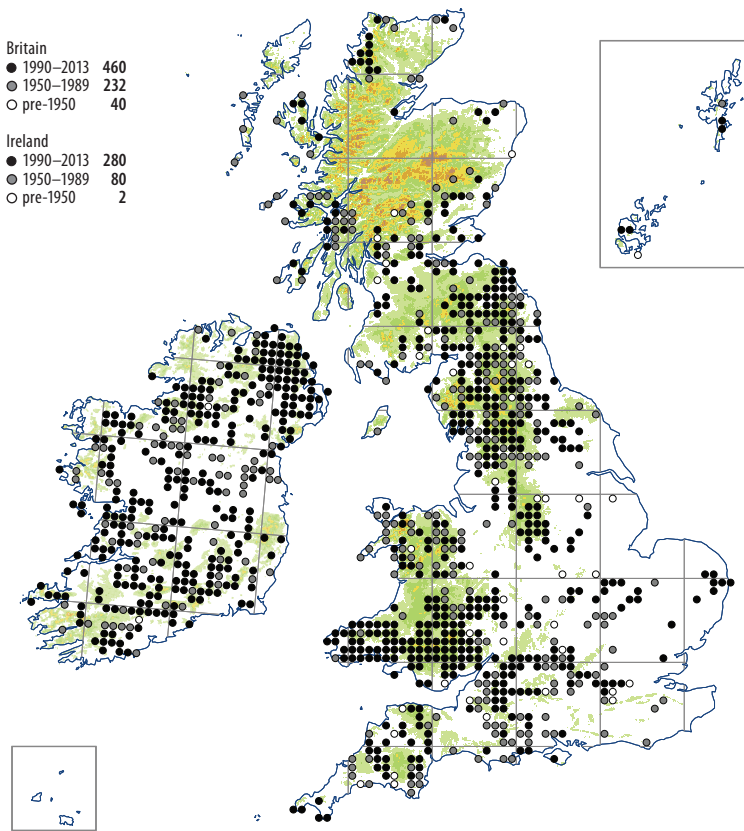


Cinclidotus fontinaloides



The optimum habitat for this species is on base-rich rocks, especially of limestone, in swift-flowing streams and rivers, particularly in upland districts. In such places it may smother stones and boulders near water level, often in association with *Dichodontium* spp., *Hygrohypnum luridum*, *Orthotrichum cupulatum*, *Platyhypnidium riparioides*, *Schistidium platyphyllum* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. It also occurs on tree roots and bases. It is most plentiful in periodically submerged sites, including seasonal stream beds, rarely if ever growing permanently under water. It is notably abundant in the turloughs on the limestone of western Ireland. In the lowlands and the more mature reaches of the larger rivers it grows on tree bases and roots, retaining walls, concrete, weirs and sluices, but is less abundant in these places and often in small quantity. Occasionally it occurs on rock surfaces away from streams,

where water trickles intermittently, and in regions with high rainfall, especially in Ireland, it can become established on concrete wall tops and even roofs and tarmac. Altitudinal range: 0–600 m.

It is unlikely that there has been any significant change in its overall frequency, but coverage is much improved in many areas, especially in Ireland.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent in upland districts, occasional in the lowlands, mature in spring and summer.

European Southern-temperate. The genus *Cinclidotus* has the centre of its distribution in the Mediterranean region. *C. fontinaloides* has the widest distribution in the genus; it ranges through W, S and C Europe, north to S Scandinavia, Poland and Ukraine. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and Near East, to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, also in China (Xinjiang). E Africa.

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