Amblyodon dealbatus

Britain
● 1990–2013   38
● 1950–1989   46
○ pre-1950   32

Ireland
● 1990–2013   21
● 1950–1989   6
○ pre-1950   6
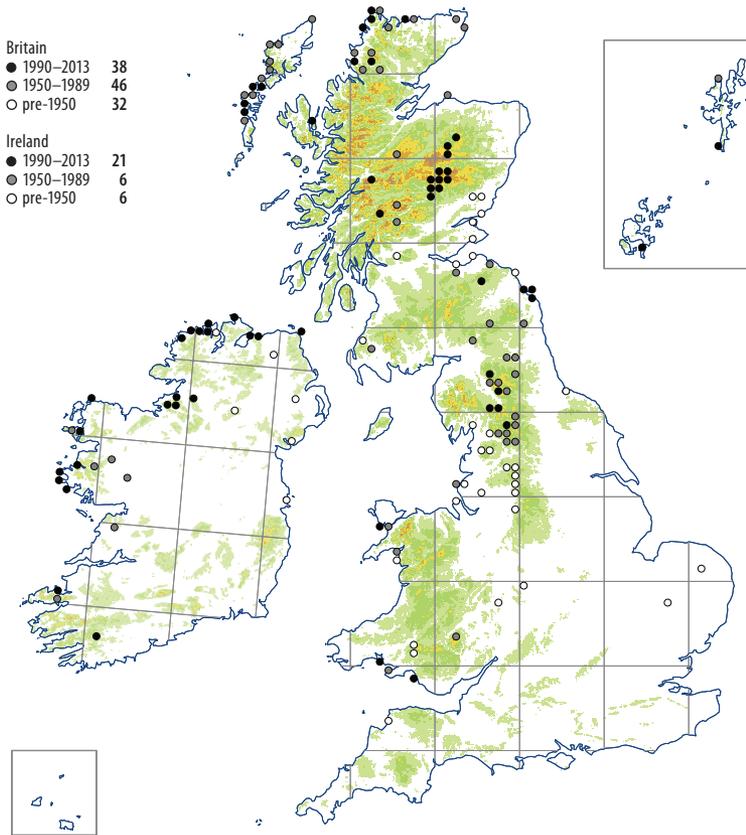
This is a moss of wet, calcareous places in two distinct habitats. In the hills it occurs in flushes associated with limestone or rarely, calcareous schists where common associates are *Campylium stellatum*, *Palustriella* spp. and *Scorpidium cossonii*. In gently sloping flushes it often occurs on hummocks, sometimes over low rocks, and on steeper slopes it often grows in the bryophyte turf on steep faces. In the Scottish hills, interesting associates include *Scapania degenii*, *Cinclidium stygium*, *Meesia uliginosa*, *Pseudocalliergon trifarium* and rarely *Tayloria lingulata*. The other frequent habitat is bare wet areas of wind-blown shell-sand, either in dune slacks or where water percolates down through shell-sand over rocks on slopes above the sea. Associates here can include other uncommon species like *Bryum calophyllum*, *Bryum warneum*, *Catoscopium nigritum* and *Distichium inclinatum*. Altitudinal range: 0–870 m.

There has been a marked decline of this species in England and SE Scotland which is almost certainly due to the loss of its habitat through stabilisation and drying out of dune slacks. Elsewhere it is probable that the moss still occurs in most of its post-1950 sites, particularly where these are remote.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent and almost always recorded, mature in summer.

Amblyodon dealbatus is easily recognised by its striking capsules, but the gametophyte is rather inconspicuous and could easily be overlooked in the absence of capsules. The capsule is quite similar to that of *Meesia uliginosa*, a plant with a similar habitat preference, and it is possible that there are a few errors in the distribution because of this.

European Boreal-montane. Widespread in N Europe, especially in the mountains, south to S Spain (Sierra Nevada), N Italy and Bulgaria, east to the N Urals. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey, Caucasus, to Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, W Himalayas, S Siberia and the Arctic Far East. Northern N America and Greenland.

G.P. Rothero

● <1%
● 1–10%
● >10%