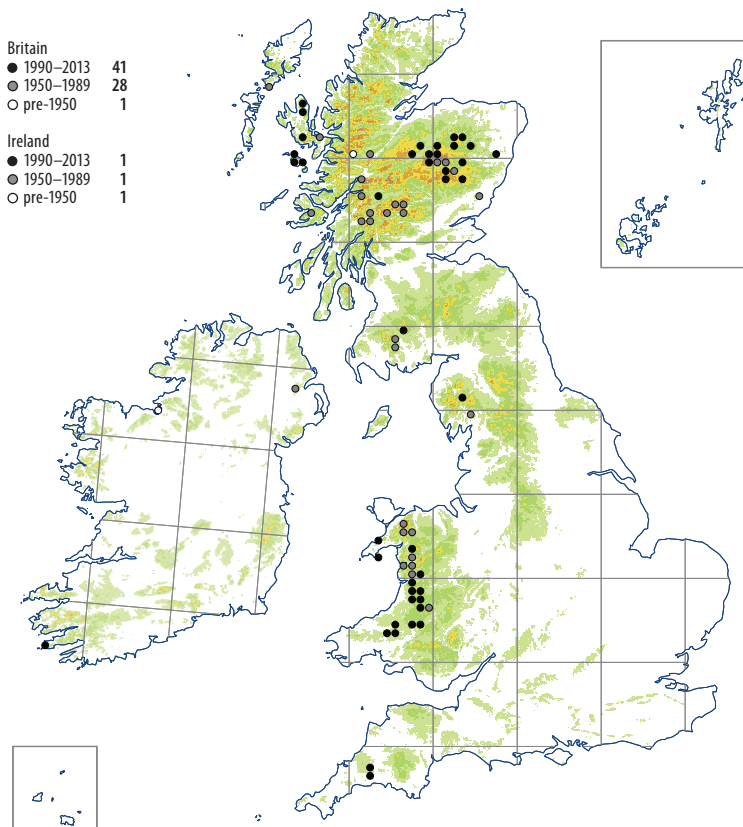


## Ditrichum lineare



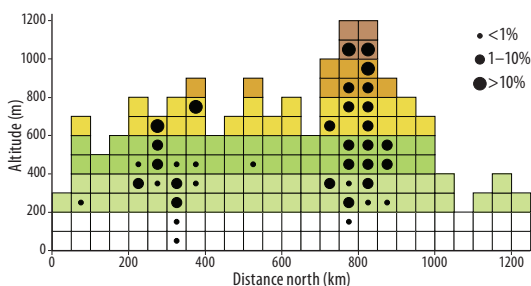
An inconspicuous moss occurring in patches or as scattered shoots on bare, often disturbed, acid mineral soils. At high altitudes, on exposed ridges and by snowbeds, it is typically associated with *Anthelia juratzkana*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Gymnomitrium* spp., *Lophozia* spp., *Marsupella* spp., *Moerckia blyttii*, *Nardia breidlerii*, *Ditrichum zonatum*, *Kiaeria* spp., *Oligotrichum hercynicum* and *Polytrichum* spp. At lower altitudes it is most frequently found on moorland and by forest roads, growing on frost-heaved soil and friable banks, where associates include *Calypogeia fissa*, *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Diplophyllum obtusifolium*, *Marsupella funckii*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Ditrichum heteromallum* and *Pogonatum aloides*. It occasionally grows by streams and lane banks, and has been found, presumably as a casual, on a soil-capped derelict wall. The Cumbrian locality is

unusual in being on clay overlying Carboniferous Limestone. It is tolerant of heavy metals and its sites in Cornwall and Co. Cork are in former copper-mining areas on soils rich in copper with some lead and zinc. Altitudinal range: 40–1130 m.

Recording of this inconspicuous species peaked in the 1970s and again in the early 2000s, doubtless reflecting recorder interest and activity.

Dioicous; most plants are apparently female but male plants occur in Cornwall, Wales and Ireland, especially in metal-rich habitats. Capsules were recorded recently in Carmarthenshire, for the first time in Britain and Ireland (Bosanquet *et al.*, 2005). Rhizoidal tubers have been detected in material from Cornwall and Wales and are likely to occur elsewhere. Protonemal gemmae are produced both in culture and in nature (Arts, 1994; Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

European Boreal-montane. Europe north to Iceland, N Fennoscandia and the northern Ural mountains in Russia, becoming infrequent or rare southwards, to NW Spain and the mountains of C Europe. Eastern Asia, Japan. Eastern N America, south to Florida. Capsules are common in Scandinavia and north-east N America, where it is an almost ubiquitous species on acid roadside banks.



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