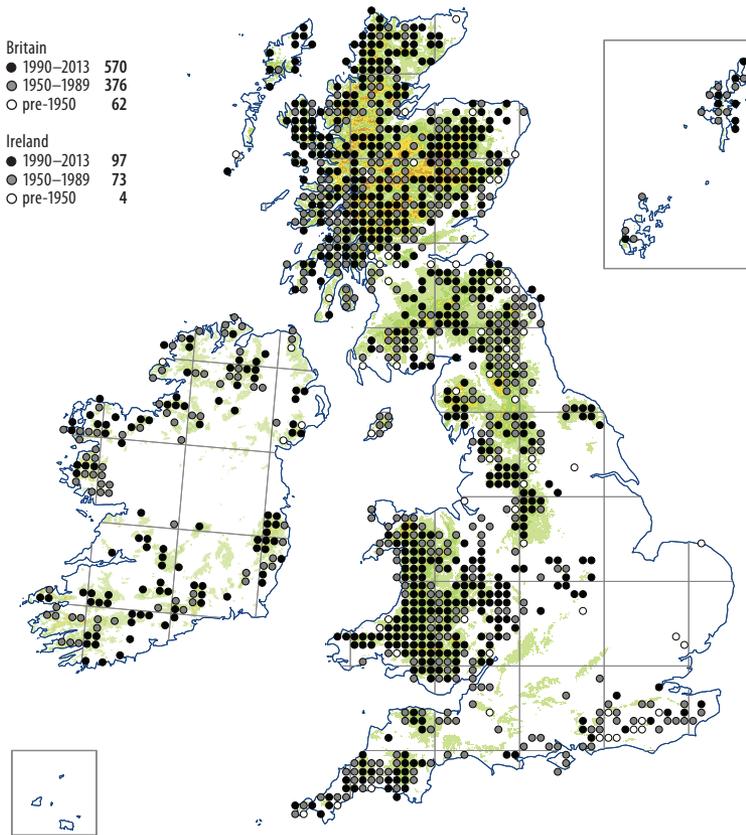


Ditrichum heteromallum



A calcifuge growing on nutrient-poor, gravelly, gritty or sandy soils, or on crumbling shale, granite and other rocks, in a wide variety of habitats, often where subject to disturbance. It is most frequent in the uplands on steep banks and slumps by streams and in gullies, on gravelly stream margins, and by moorland tracks and roadsides. On higher ground it occurs on mountain detritus and in scree. In these habitats it is often mixed with *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Oligotrichum hercynicum*, *Pogonatum aloides* and *P. urnigerum*. At lower altitudes it is found on banks and bare ground on heathland and around disused mine workings and in old pits and quarries. It tolerates light to moderate shade and may occur on banks and tracks in open woodland and by forest roads. Altitudinal range: 25–800 m.

Like many primarily upland species, *Ditrichum heteromallum* has benefitted from more intensive recording in these areas and many gaps in its distribution have been filled.

Dioicous; capsules are common, mature in spring and summer. Rhizoidal tubers have been reported from Scotland and from several continental countries and are probably widespread in Britain and Ireland. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Risse, 1985b).

Normally only recorded when capsules are present, and although these are common it is possible that vegetative populations are widely overlooked because of their similarity to *Dicranella heteromalla*.

European Boreo-temperate. Throughout N Europe including the Arctic, reaching Iceland, N Fennoscandia and Jan Mayen, east to the Urals and Caucasus, becoming rare and montane in the south. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey. N and E Asia south to the Himalaya and Taiwan, Japan. Western N America, S America (Colombia).

R.D. Porley, rev. T.L. Blockeel

