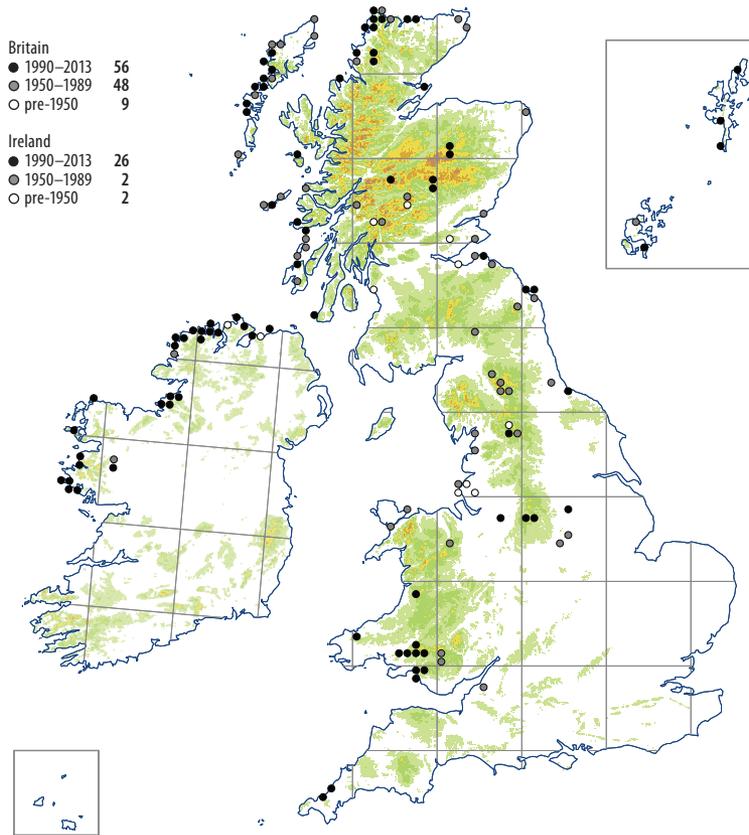


Distichium inclinatum



On the coast, *Distichium inclinatum* is a plant of calcareous dune slacks and dune grassland, where it grows in closely grazed turf that is rich in herbs and bryophytes. It usually forms dense and hard, pure tufts, and is particularly frequent in the dune systems of the north coast of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. In this habitat it often grows with *Amblyodon dealbatus*, *Catoscopium nigratum* and *Meesia uliginosa*, which are similar in their adaptation to both coastal and upland habitats. It is much less common inland, where it is more constantly associated with limestone than *Distichium capillaceum*, occurring in thin turf, on calcareous rocky soil, on moist rock ledges, in soil-filled crevices, and on rock debris. It has also been recorded with *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* on flushed tufa, and it sometimes colonises man-made habitats such as quarries, earthy old walls, wall mortar, railway cuttings, and

tracks surfaced with limestone chippings. Altitudinal range: 0–920 m.

It has declined or been lost at some coastal sites, especially in NW England, because of the destruction of dune slacks or their deterioration as a consequence of drying-out and the growth of thick grass and *Salix repens* scrub. However these losses have been offset by new finds, notably in Ireland and S Wales.

Monoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Arctic and boreal zones of Europe, north to Svalbard, more scattered and montane southwards, reaching the mountains of the Mediterranean region. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey. Throughout the cooler parts of the Northern Hemisphere, south to the Himalaya and China in Asia, and California and Colorado in N America. A bipolar species, very rare in the Southern Hemisphere, in W Antarctica.

P.H. Pitkin, rev. T.L. Blockeel

