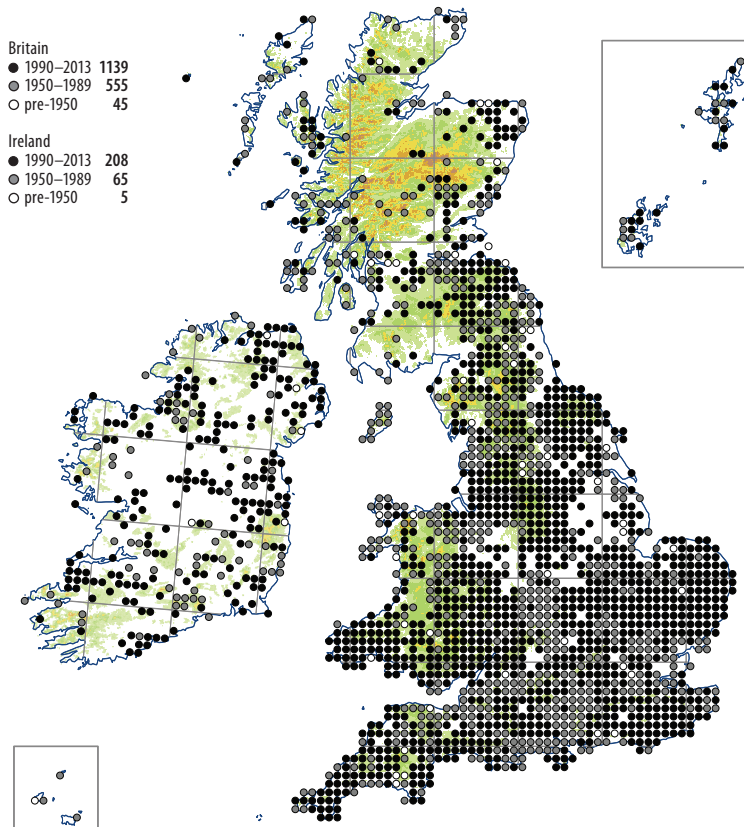


Pohlia melanodon

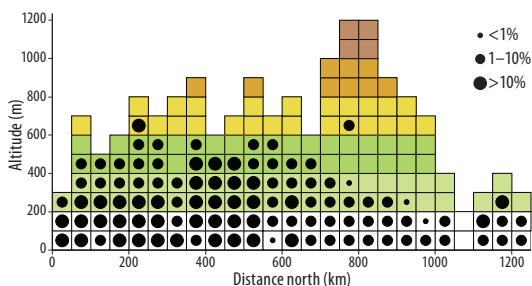


A plant of moist or wet soils, especially clay, that are circumneutral to basic, in open to lightly shaded habitats, sometimes in dense shade. It is characteristic of steep clay banks of ditches, streams and rivers particularly in the flood zone or where the bank is kept wet by seepage, often forming pure stands in such locations. It is also commonly present in a typical clay-bank community that includes *Lunularia cruciata*, *Pellia endiviifolia*, *Bryum gemmiferum*, tuber-bearing *Bryum* spp., *Didymodon tophaceus*, *Fissidens bryoides* and *Pseudephemerum nitidum*. Elsewhere it may be found in a wide variety of habitats where moist soil is exposed, including pathsides, rutted tracks, bare patches in fields, clay pits, pond margins, marshes and woodland rides, sea cliffs, the entrances to caves and mines, and occasionally on banks of disintegrating rocks such as shale. It is a frequent component of arable

field communities on basic soils and clay, being one of the regular associates of *Didymodon tomaculosus*. Altitudinal range: 0–430 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, maturing from winter to spring. Rhizoidal tubers are frequent; they are described by Arts (1986b) as very difficult to find unless the material is stained, but once their characteristic appearance is known they can usually be found without chemical assistance.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Most of Europe, including the Mediterranean region, but scattered in Scandinavia, reaching N Norway and NW Russia, east to the Ural mountains. Macaronesia, N Africa, SW Asia, to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. Widespread in temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere, but apparently rare or overlooked in much of Asia and N America.



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