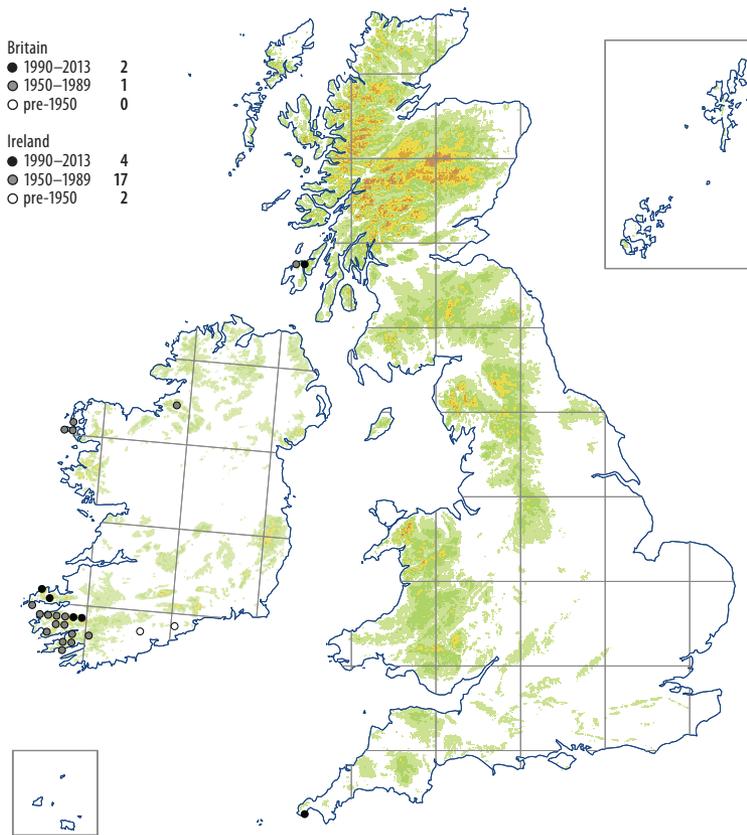


Cyclodictyon laetevirens



A robust moss usually forming mats, which can be extensive, on rocks that are either permanently wet or only intermittently dry. Many of its sites in Ireland are very sheltered, either deep in dripping caves, in holes in irrigated block scree or in streamlets under tall heather, but some sites on wooded waterfalls or in narrow rocky inlets close to the sea are more open. It seems to be able to cope with very low light levels as long as there is constant humidity and regular irrigation, and in Ireland it has been recorded growing on the stipes and fronds of senescent *Trichomanes speciosum* in deeply shaded, dripping caves and recesses. Both of the recorded sites on Islay and Jura are in wet, dripping caves along the raised beach platform. Here associates include

Conocephalum conicum, *Jubula hutchinsiae*, *Pellia endiviifolia*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Hookeria lucens* and *Kindbergia praelonga*. Its Cornish site is also in a sea cave on the near-vertical surface of a groove where water trickles. Rare oceanic associates in Ireland include *Lejeunea eckloniana* and *Radula holtii*. Altitudinal range: 20–450 m.

It was re-found in its Cornish sea cave in 1996, in spite of its misguided eradication from a nearby cave shortly after its discovery in the 19th century (Porley, 2013). It is not thought to have declined in Ireland (Lockhart *et al.*, 2012). The site on Jura is monitored fairly regularly but the Islay site has not been re-found despite some targeted searches.



Synocious, autoicous or dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in late summer and autumn.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. In mainland Europe only in Portugal and Spain. Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands. Tropical Africa.

H.J.B. Birks, rev. G.P. Rothero

◀ Mousehole Cave, West Cornwall, 2011. Des Callaghan