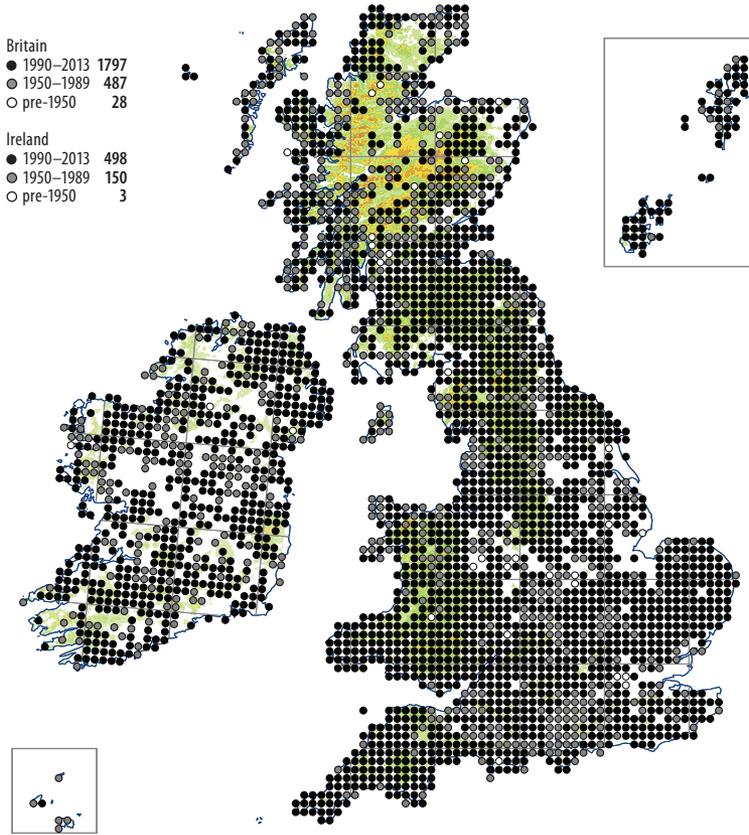


# Cratoneuron filicinum



In natural and semi-natural habitats, this species grows around calcareous springs, rills, flushes and marshes, where it favours rather more fertile sites than *Palustriella commutata*, though often associated with it, as well as with *Pellia endiviifolia*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata* and *Campylium stellatum*. It is also widespread on rock ledges and at the base of moist or wet crags, on stones and gravel in and by streams with at least weakly base-rich water, in dune slacks and in bare patches in moist grassland. However it is also a very common ruderal species in a great variety of places on damp, basic ground, especially on gravelly soil on tracks, roadsides, field entrances and driveways, on damp stonework, brickwork, concrete and crumbling tarmac, and on mine spoil. In these habitats it extends into otherwise acid environments, and often grows with *Bryum argenteum*,

*B. dichotomum*, *Barbula convoluta*, *B. unguiculata* and *Didymodon* spp., though it may die back during long periods of dry weather. Altitudinal range: 0–950 m.

In the past it has been under-recorded in ruderal habitats and many of the gaps that have been filled in its distribution since the 1991–1994 Atlas are due to recording in such places.

Diocious; capsules are uncommon, mature in late spring.

A variable species, and a number of varieties were recognised at one time. Hedenäs (2011) found that molecular data does not support the recognition of one of its most distinctive forms, var. *atrovirens* (Brid.) Ochyra (var. *fallax* (Brid.) G. Roth), characterised by a strong, excurrent nerve.

Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Almost throughout Europe north to the high Arctic in Svalbard and N Russia. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia (including Saudi Arabia). Very widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, also on mountains in the tropics. Southern S America. Southern Africa. New Zealand.

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