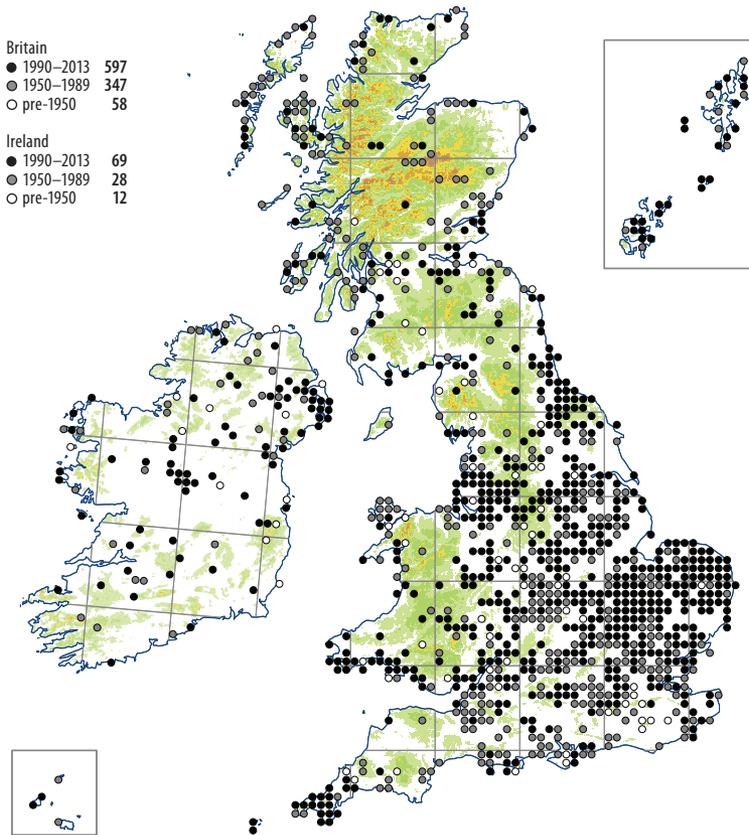


# Drepanocladus aduncus



An aquatic moss, exceptionally variable in growth-form, sometimes in standing water and with long flaccid stems, forming floating masses with the erect shoot tips breaking the surface, but often as shorter erect plants in shallow water and wet ground. It occurs in mildly acid to base-rich waters and is tolerant of eutrophication. It occurs widely in reed swamp and other tall vegetation (persisting in light shade under trees), in ponds and ditches, fen meadows and eutrophic dune slacks. Many occurrences are in disturbed and man-made sites, as in old quarries and pits, as well as reservoirs, and it is able to withstand periods of drought during which it may become stranded. Associates include *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *polymorpha*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Cratoneuron filicinum* and *Leptodictyum riparium*. It has some tolerance of salinity, and is recorded from brackish pools and at the edge of

saltmarsh with or near to *Drepanocladus polygamus*. As a moss that favours rather fertile sites, it is frequent in many clayey agricultural regions of the Midlands and SE England. Altitudinal range: 0–400 m.

The much denser concentration of records since the 1991–1994 Atlas is due to widespread systematic recording in many lowland regions.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare.

Many attempts have been made to split *D. aduncus* into segregate species. The revision of Zarnowiec (2001) has not generally been accepted (Hill, 2002, 2003) and *D. aduncus* is treated here as a single variable species (see also Hedenäs, 2008b). Its variability can cause it to be confused with other wetland mosses, including *Warnstorfia fluitans*, and it may occasionally be misrecorded.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Frequent over most of Europe from the Mediterranean region north to Iceland and N Fennoscandia. N Africa. Turkey. Widespread both in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, including the Arctic, but not reaching the Antarctic. In the tropics mainly on mountains, in C America, S America (Andes), and C Africa.

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