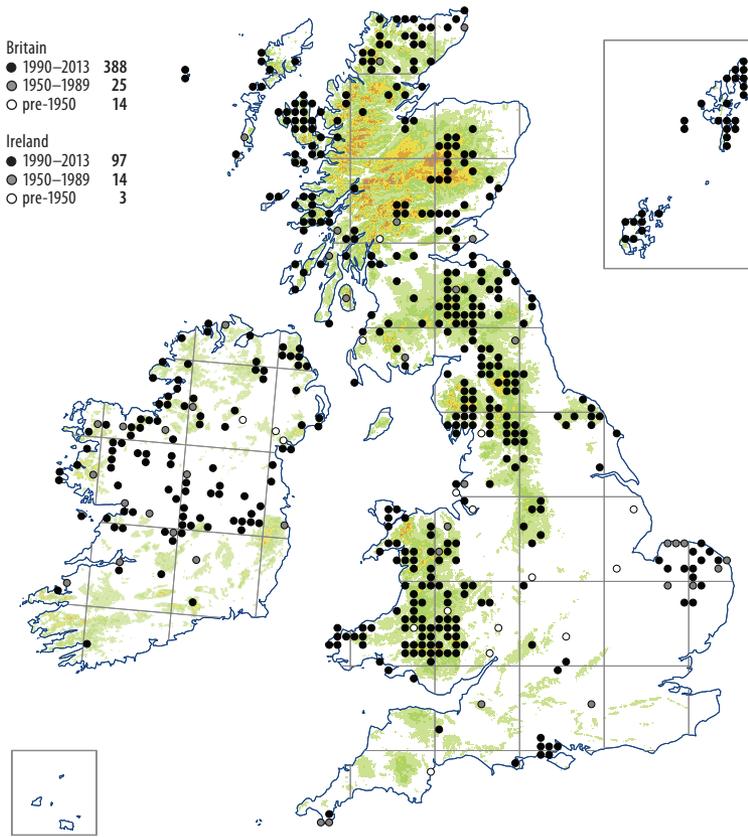


Scorpidium cossonii



A greenish or yellow-green moss forming loose patches in base-rich mires, often mixed with other species. Its presence indicates significant base enrichment with pH values usually in excess of 6.0. It occurs in open rich fen with *Campylopus stellatum*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Palustriella commutata*, *P. falcata*, *Philonotis calcarea*, *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum*, *Scorpidium scorpioides* and *Sphagnum contortum*. In upland areas it is a common component of calcareous sedge-rich flushes and seepages, with many of the same associates but also with *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* and *Leiocolea* spp., and it may persist in or colonise wet hollows in old quarries and lime workings. It is a common component of open wet dune slacks, often with scarce species such as *Drepanocladus sendtneri* and *Pseudocalliergon lycopodioides*. Although it shares many of the same associates with *S. revolvens*, the two species are

rarely intermixed. They may, however, occur in the same locality: thus at a site at Great Close Mire, Malham, *S. cossonii* was observed in wet calcium-rich hollows, while *S. revolvens* occurred on a more peaty substrate in adjacent sphagnum mire. The subtle differences in their ecology are not fully understood. Altitudinal range: 0–900 m.

Scorpidium cossonii is more common in lowland mires than *S. revolvens*, and it has suffered more than that species from habitat destruction and deterioration.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in summer.

It was not recognised as a distinct species and was often disregarded until Blockeel (2000) applied the concepts of Hedenäs (1989) to British and Irish material. It remains somewhat under-recorded, but the map shows the overall distribution accurately.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Europe from Iceland and Svalbard south to S Spain (Sierra Nevada), the Alps and Bulgaria. Widespread in Arctic to temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere. S America (Andes, Tierra del Fuego). New Zealand.

T.L. Blockeel

