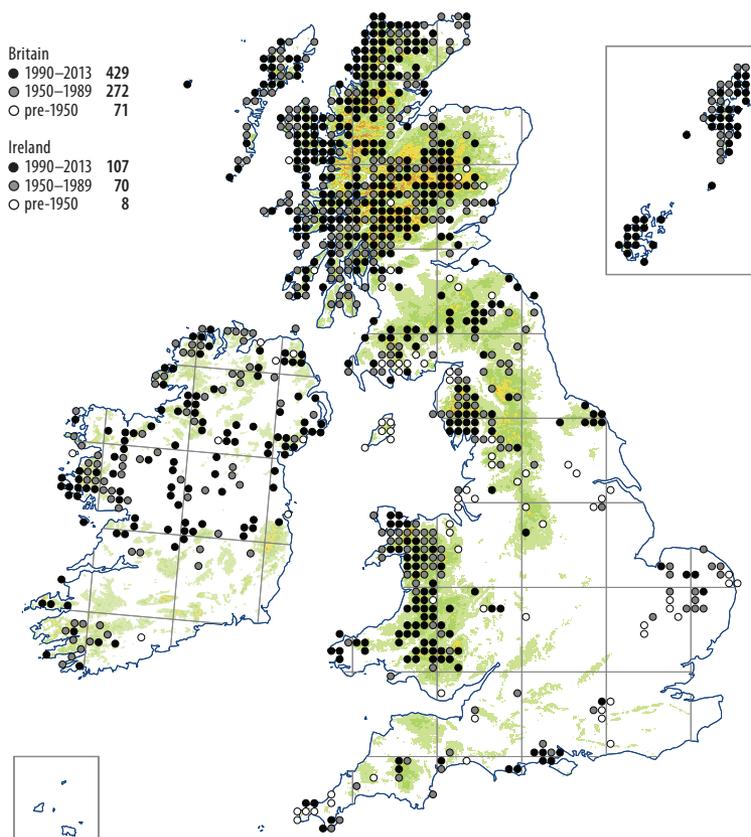


Scorpidium scorpioides



This distinctive moss with fat worm-like frequently sprawling shoots occurs in wet base-rich, often calcareous conditions, most frequently in rich fens dominated by *Carex hostiana*, *C. panicea*, *C. rostrata*, *Eriophorum latifolium* or *Schoenus nigricans*, growing in waterlogged hollows, in soaks and runnels draining from springs, and at the infilled margins of small low-lying lakes. It is commonly associated with *Aneura pinguis*, *Campyllum stellatum*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Scorpidium cossonii*, *S. revolvens* and *Sphagnum contortum*. It also occurs in upland sedge-rich flushes with *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Saxifraga aizoides* and *Blindia acuta*, in mud-bottom stands within communities dominated by *Carex diandra*, *C. lasiocarpa* and *C. limosa*, at the margins of small lakes with *Chara* spp., submerged in pools with *Utricularia* spp., in dune slacks with *Pseudocalliergon lycopodioides*, and in calcareous spring-fens

with *Palustriella falcata*. More rarely it occurs in old marl-pits, in flushes in lowland wet heaths and valley bogs, and on flushed rocks and cliff ledges in the uplands. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

More intensive recording has increased the number of sites, especially in parts of Scotland and S Wales, but the species has been in long-term decline in England, partly from habitat loss but also from eutrophication: under nutrient-rich conditions it is replaced by *Calliergonella cuspidata* (Kooijman, 2012).

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring and summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in C and N Europe, but declining in the lowlands, becoming montane towards the south and reaching the Pyrenees, Corsica, northern Italy and Bulgaria. Circumboreal, from the temperate zone to the high Arctic. S America (Andes). Australia (Tasmania).

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