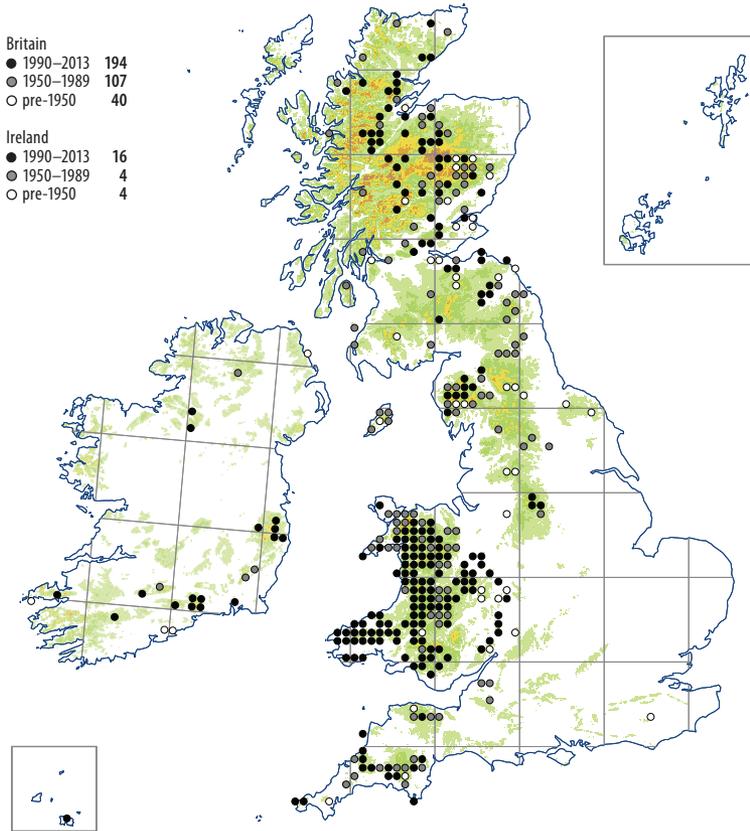


# Cynodontium bruntonii



A characteristic species of siliceous rock outcrops and crags, typically wedged in crevices but also on rock faces. Common substrates include sandstone, gritstone, granite, slate and shale, but in SE Scotland it is found on slightly basic basalt. It grows on dry though usually somewhat sheltered rocks, frequently in light shade, and thus often in open woodland, on the rocky banks of streams and rivers, and on lanesides. It also occurs in gullies and crags on moorland and on coastal slopes, rarely on stone walls. Though often growing in pure tufts, it is sometimes associated with *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Bartramia pomiformis*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* and other calcifuge species of rock crevices. Altitudinal range: 10–700 m.

There has been an increasing trend in records since 1990, but this is probably due in large part to systematic recording in

S Wales and the Welsh Marches, where many new localities have been added.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer. Vegetative propagation is by protonemal gemmae, which may be left behind in rock crevices when tufts of the moss become detached (Arts, 1990; Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

It is very similar in appearance in the field to *Dicranoweisia cirrata* and is no doubt occasionally overlooked for this reason, but not seriously under-recorded.

European Temperate. In Europe most frequent in the west, from C Scandinavia south in the Mediterranean region to S Spain, Sardinia, Sicily the Aegean islands and Crete, and extending eastwards to the Carpathians, Ural mountains and Kazakhstan. Canary Islands, N Africa. Turkey.

A.C. Crundwell, rev. T.L. Blockeel

