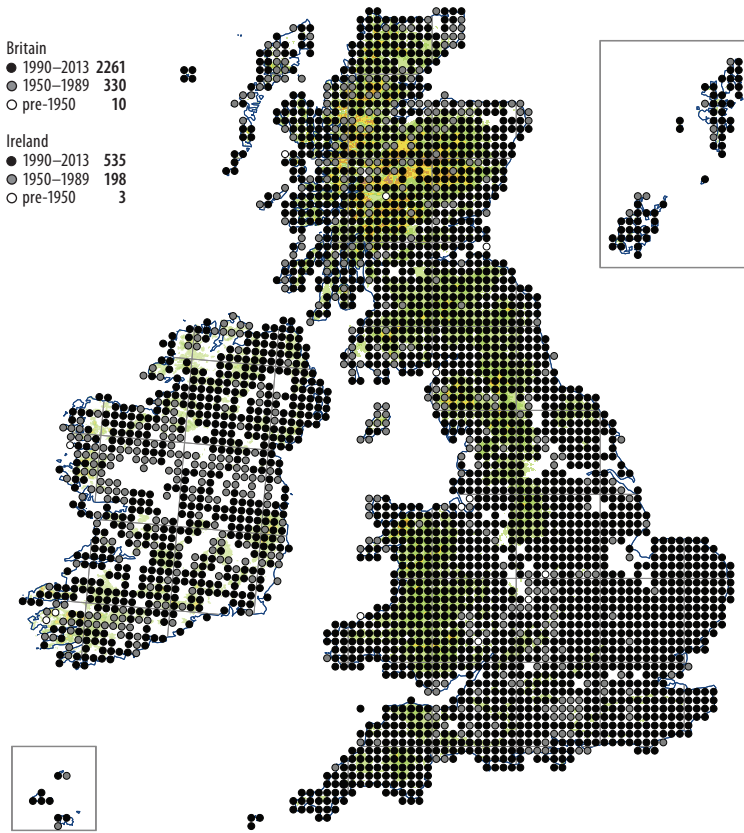


Pseudoscleropodium purum

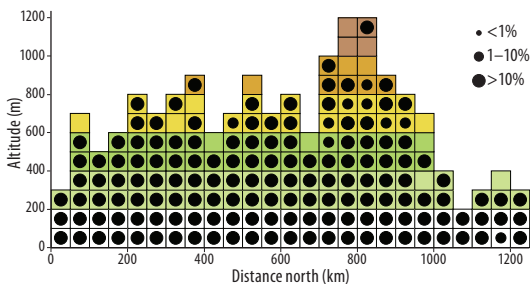


Forming coarse wefts in grassland and heaths on a variety of substrates from highly calcareous to mildly acid, but avoiding the most acid soils. It also avoids deep shade and very wet ground. Grassland habitats include unimproved calcareous and heathy turf, dunes, marshes, quarries, roadsides, banks and cliff tops, and it is a characteristic species of old lawns in many churchyards. In such places it is often associated with *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and other large bryophytes. It is common in open woodland and scrub, and along rides and paths in denser forest. In dry or seasonally damp *Calluna* heathland it commonly grows with *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Pleurozium schreberi*. At higher altitudes it occurs on ungrazed ledges, usually where there is some basic influence. Altitudinal range: 0–1000 m.

Although still a very common species, it has been lost from many grasslands, being intolerant of agricultural improvement through the use of fertilisers.

Dioicous; capsules are generally rare, mature in autumn and winter. They were described as occasional in Cornwall by Paton (1969) but Holyoak (2012) reports only three instances during his survey of the county.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe north to Iceland and southern Scandinavia, the Baltic States and adjacent parts of Russia, rare in the Mediterranean lowlands. Macaronesia, Algeria. Turkey, Israel, Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Iran. Widely introduced in other parts of the world, including western and eastern N America, St Helena, Réunion, Sri Lanka, Japan, the Hawaiian Islands, southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand.



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