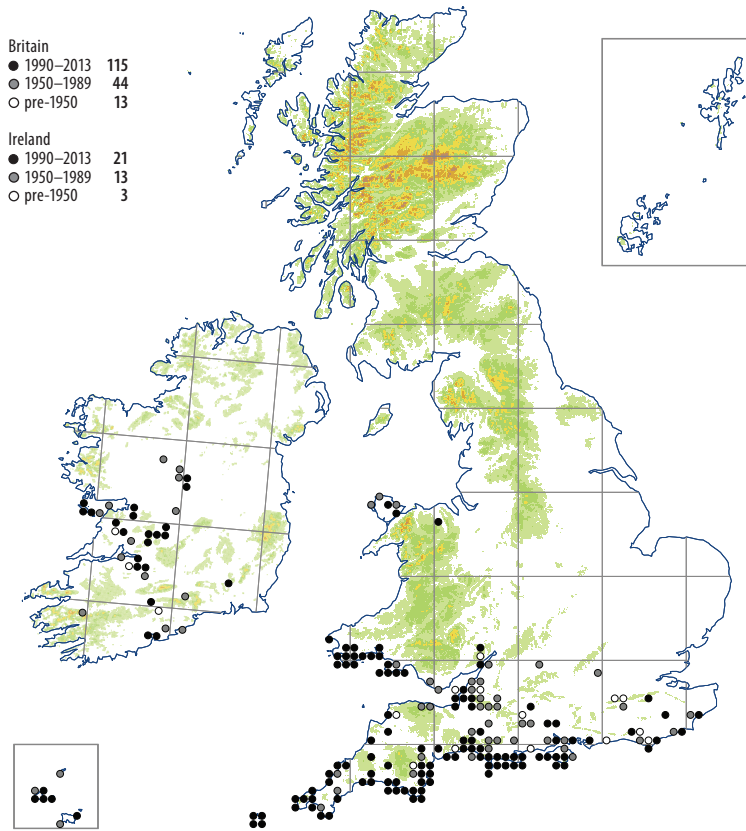


Scorpiurium circinatum



In Cornwall and the Channel Islands *Scorpiurium* is found in open turf or around rock outcrops in well-drained, insolated or lightly shaded sites such as banks in sand dunes, rocky cliffs and earth-covered rocks, walls, Cornish hedges, roadside banks and disused quarries. Although usually growing over non-calcareous rocks its substrates often contain calcium derived from wind-blown sand and are almost always subject to the deposition of salt spray. Elsewhere it is largely confined to chalk and limestone, rarely basic sandstone, being found in thin turf but much more often on cliffs, rocks and limestone walls, often in shaded situations, and on loose stones in woods. Associates on calcareous rock include *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Neckera complanata* and *Rhynchostegiella tenella*. Much more rarely it colonises brickwork, old concrete and tarmac. It is also recorded from silty tree bases by calcareous streams. There

are isolated occurrences on limestone ornaments in parks, including an old stone seat at Cliveden and a bust of Pan (imported from Italy in the 1920s) at Buscot Park (Bates, 1995). Altitudinal range: 5–230 m.

Diocious; capsules are unknown in Britain or Ireland. No specialised means of vegetative propagation is known.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Common and often with sporophytes in the Mediterranean countries, extending north in W Europe to France, Belgium and S Germany. Macaronesia (including Cape Verde Islands), N Africa. SW Asia, Crimea, Caucasus to Azerbaijan.

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