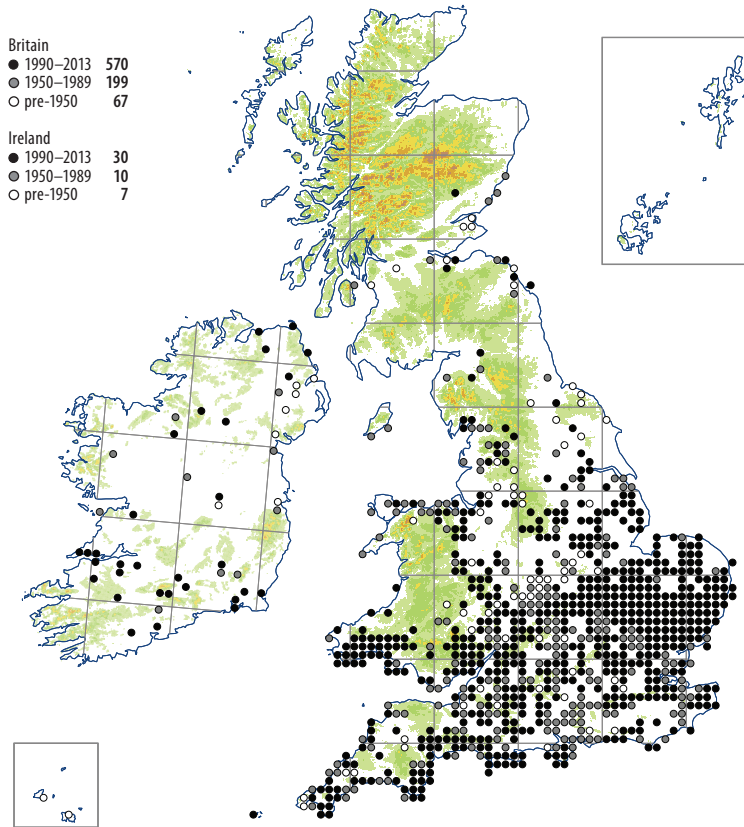


Fissidens incurvus



In many respects *Fissidens incurvus* is the counterpart of *F. bryoides* on basic soils such as chalk and calcareous clays, though occasionally found on neutral to slightly acid soils. It occurs on bare and disturbed ground in woodland and scrub, and on banks by sunken lanes, streams, ditches and hedgerows, sometimes associated with *Oxyrrhynchium pumilum*. More open habitats include bare soil patches and ant-hills in chalk and limestone grassland, on coastal cliffs, in old quarries and pits, on roadsides and in churchyards. In these habitats it may be associated with *Bryum rubens*, *Microbryum* spp., *Weissia* spp., and other species of *Fissidens*. It is a frequent member of the *Barbula unguiculata*–*Bryum klinggraeffii* community described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from arable fields on strongly basic soils, especially in eastern England. Altitudinal range: 0–490 m.

Like other members of the *F. viridulus* complex, it has been recorded with greater thoroughness in recent decades. Its abrupt rarity towards the north appears to be genuine, and may be explained by the relative scarcity of low-lying calcareous substrates.

Dioicous or autoicous; capsules are abundant, autumn to early spring. Rhizoidal tubers have been reported from Northamptonshire (Hill, 2006) and from Spain (During *et al.*, 1988).

Fissidens incurvus is normally only identified when capsules are present and it may therefore be under-recorded. Like other members of the *F. viridulus* complex it is variable and is often regarded as a variety or subspecies of that species. Bosanquet (2010) reports a distinctive form from Pembrokeshire with long red setae and elongate shoots, growing on damp clay with *Archidium alternifolium* and *Weissia* spp. This form has also been noted in SE Ireland.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Europe from the Mediterranean region north to S Sweden and east to Ukraine and Georgia. Macaronesia, N Africa. Near East and Iran. N America (though often treated as a synonym of *F. bryoides* there). Australia (Tasmania).

T.L. Blockeel

