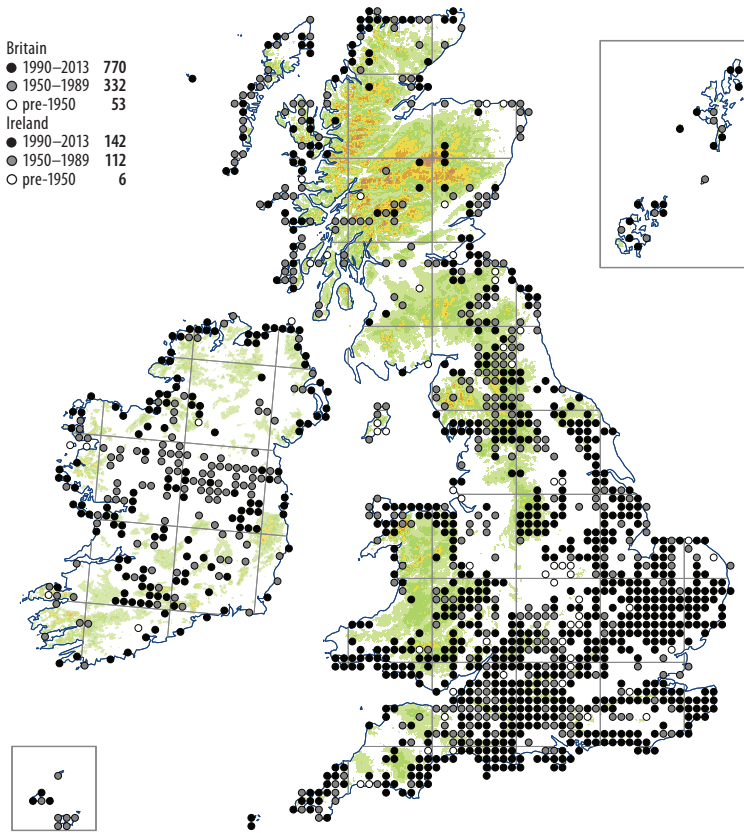


# Homalothecium lutescens



This is a characteristic and often abundant species of relatively dry calcareous grassland on chalk, limestone, sand, clay, gravel or basic igneous rock. It grows on sunny south-facing cliffs and slopes, but is more luxuriant on those facing north; common associates are *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *lacunosum* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. It does not tolerate much shade, and in woods is confined to open areas by paths and in glades. Common on bare soil and chalk in quarries or in species-rich short turf, it rarely grows directly on rock, but in some limestone districts a prostrate form adheres to the surfaces of boulders and limestone walls. On coasts, it is a characteristic moss of calcareous sand in fixed dunes and dune grassland, where additional associates may include *Brachythecium albicans*, *Syntrichia ruralis* var. *ruraliformis* and *Tortella flavovirens*, and it also occurs in cliff-

top turf, machair and, rarely, saltmarsh. It is an occasional colonist of mine spoil, old tips and gravelly waste ground, where the substrate is at least mildly basic. Altitudinal range: 0–800 m.

Diocious; capsules are rare but locally numerous, mature in late winter to spring.

European Southern-temperate. Nearly all Europe from the Mediterranean region north to Iceland, S Scandinavia, the Baltic States and adjacent parts of Russia. Canary Islands, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East, and eastwards to Kyrgyzstan. Populations in western N America belong to a distinct subspecies or species (*H. fulgescens* (Mitt. ex Müll. Hal.) A. Jaeger).

R.A. Finch, rev. T.L. Blockeel

