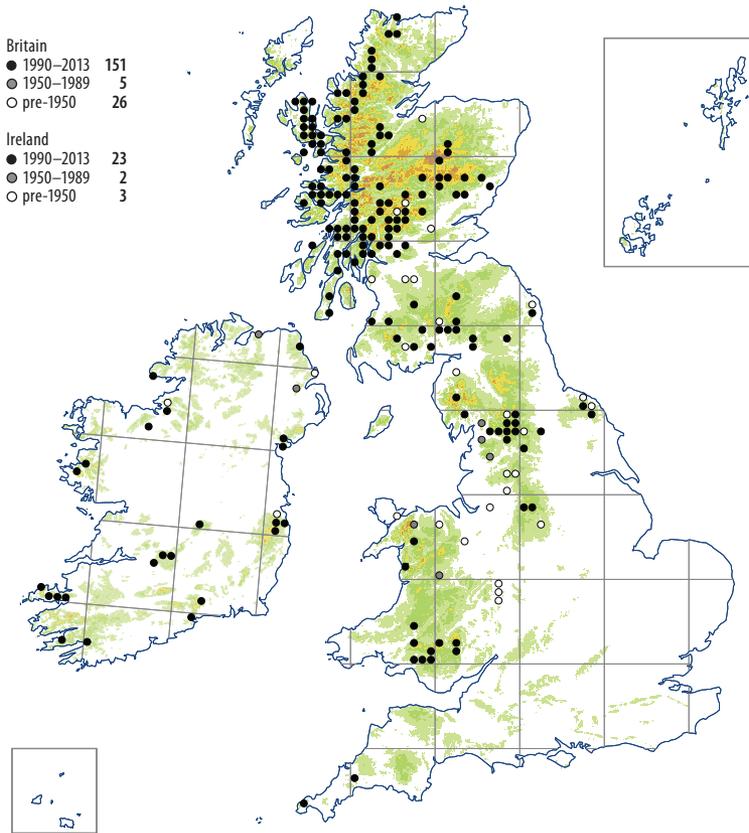


Dichodontium flavescens



Though occurring in a similar range of habitats to *Dichodontium pellucidum*, this species is particularly characteristic of silt-covered boulders and tree bases by streams and rivers. It often grows in such habitats along the middle reaches of the larger rivers that have their origin in the uplands, and may be associated there with *Didymodon spadiceus*. Elsewhere it occurs on wet rocks and detritus in gullies and ravines, and on cliffs and crags. The differences in its ecology from *D. pellucidum*, if they exist, are not precisely understood because of confusion between the two species, but it may be more common than *D. pellucidum* on calcareous substrates such as limestone. Altitudinal range: 5–670 m.

Dioicous; capsules are often recorded, maturing from late autumn to early spring, but they may be less frequent than

the records suggest because most recorders are unwilling to record *D. flavescens* unless capsules are present. Axillary gemmae are sometimes present but appear to be rare and have not been found on fertile stems. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

Dichodontium flavescens is a problematic species. Smith (1978) took the view that it could not be identified in the absence of capsules, whereas Werner (2002) believed that it could be separated reliably by the morphology of the leaves. Its status remains uncertain, as capsules of the *pellucidum* type are sometimes found on shoots that have the appearance of *D. flavescens*. The map includes some records based on vegetative characters. Whatever its true status, *D. flavescens* is undoubtedly under-recorded.

European Boreal-montane. Its extra-territorial distribution is uncertain because few authors have recognised it as an independent species. Plants with erect capsules have been reported from scattered localities in Europe and N America.

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