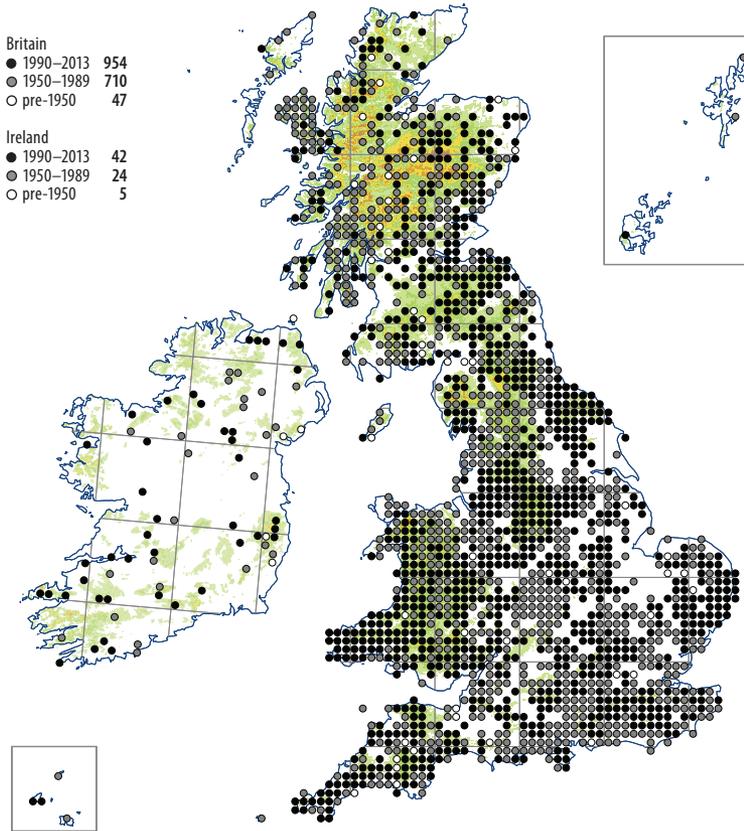


Plagiothecium denticulatum var. *denticulatum*



A moss of moist shady places on base-poor organic soils, especially in woodland, where it grows on tree stumps, tree bases, rotting stumps and logs, banks and acid humus, often with *Tetraphis pellucida*. It also occurs on thin, often peaty soil over and at the base of rocks in bouldery woodland and on old walls. It is more strongly calcifuge and extends to wetter habitats than other common *Plagiothecium* species, occurring on the ground in coniferous woods, on wet soil by streams, in marshes, flushes and wet acid grassland, also in reed swamps and carr woodland, where it may grow on sedge and fern tussocks. In montane regions it grows in wooded ravines and, at higher altitudes, in shady recesses between boulders in stable block scree and in earthy crevices in cliffs. Altitudinal range: 0–880 m (var. *denticulatum*), 0–1200 m (records not assigned to a variety).

There has been a very marked decline in records since 1980, and *P. denticulatum* appears to be a decreasing species. This may, at least partly, be a consequence of reductions in acid deposition, as the decrease has been more marked in formerly polluted areas.

Autoicous; capsules are common, maturing from late winter to summer. Fusiform axillary gemmae are occasional.

Plants from swampy habitats have been treated as a distinct species (*P. ruthei*) or variety (var. *undulatum*) in the past but are now thought to be habitat forms. They are not mapped separately here. Records not assigned to any particular variety have been mapped as var. *denticulatum*.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Europe from Iceland, Svalbard and NW Russia south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia (Madeira). Turkey, Iran. Widespread across the Northern Hemisphere. N, C and E Asia (south to the Himalaya and China), Japan. Greenland, N America (south to California and New Mexico).

N.G. Hodgetts, rev. T.L. Blockeel

