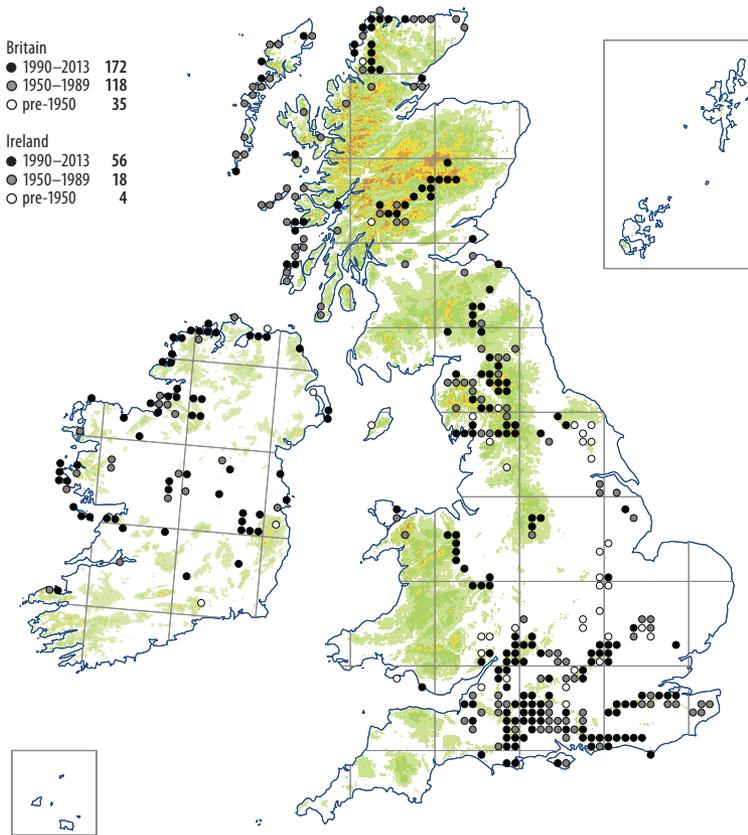


Entodon concinnus



A calcicole of well-drained open situations, typically in species-rich short turf on well-illuminated, especially south-facing, slopes. It grows, often in small quantity, in long-established grassland on chalk downs and ancient trackways, on limestone rock ledges and scree, and on sandy banks, coastal dunes and machair. At some sites it is characteristic of ancient earthworks and long-abandoned quarries. However it also occurs in recently disturbed habitats in limestone pits and quarries, and on rubble by roads and even car parks. Associates include *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Ditrichum gracile* and *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *lacunosum*, and at northern sites *Scapania aspera* and *Tortella tortuosa*. It is rare in the mountains, on well-drained brown-earth soil or in dry or periodically damp *Dryas* heath. Altitudinal range: 0–950 m.

It has declined in S and E England from the ploughing of old grassland and the cessation of grazing. Preston *et al.* (2009) found evidence on the chalk grassland of Salisbury Plain that it benefitted from disturbance, and its presence on old earthworks may reflect such disturbance in the past. It is curiously rare or absent in some limestone districts where apparently suitable habitat is plentiful. Low powers of dispersal may partly explain its patchy distribution.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain and Ireland.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Widespread in W Europe, north to Iceland, N Scandinavia and the N Urals, but rare in E Europe and absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Discontinuously circumpolar, in cold steppes and the Arctic to about 70°N, and in mountains further south. Himalaya, C and E Asia, Japan (some or all of these occurrences belong to subsp. *caliginosus* (Mitt.) Mizush.). Western N America, south to New Mexico; very rare in eastern N America and known from Newfoundland and North Carolina. Disjunct in alpine habitats in Ecuador, Ethiopia and New Guinea.

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