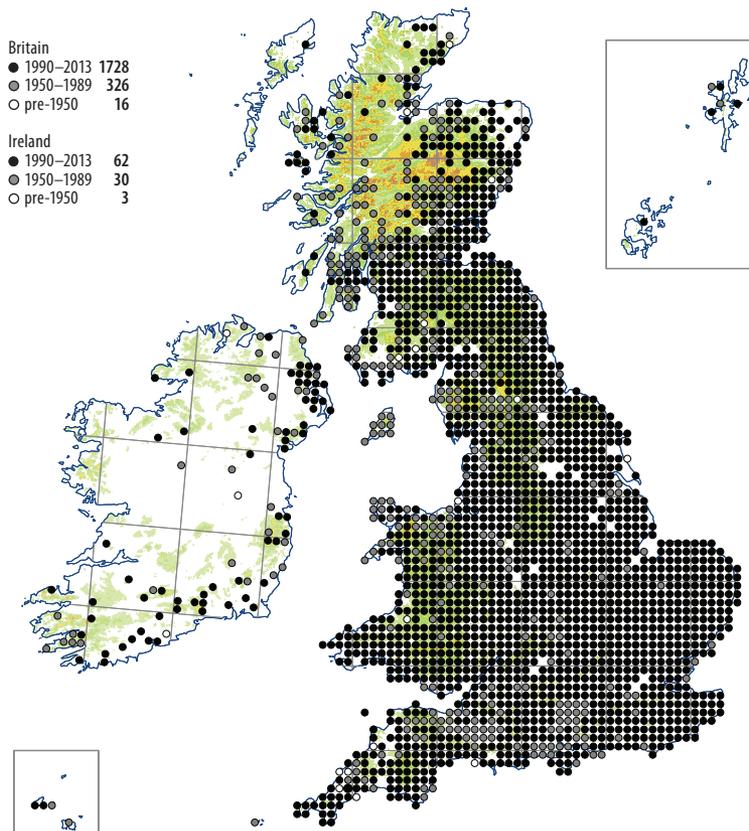


Dicranoweisia cirrata



A common epiphyte, especially on the trunks and larger branches of trees, rarely on slender twigs. It occurs both in lightly to moderately shaded woodland and in more open habitats including copses, river banks and roadsides. It is an acidophile and is often found on trees with acid bark, including alder, birch, oak and conifers, but has been recorded on a very wide range of other hosts. It colonises dead wood but it favours substrates that are firm and dry, like old fence rails and wooden gate-posts, and it rarely persists on soft decorticated logs. Associates on acid bark include *Lophocolea heterophylla*, *Dicranum tauricum*, *Orthodontium lineare* and *Tetraphis pellucida*. Old thatch was a common habitat at one time, but is less often available now. In some areas it is frequent on natural outcrops and boulders of siliceous rocks such as gritstone and sandstone but also on granite and other base-poor rocks. Equally it colonises walls

and stone structures, including gravestones in churchyards. Exceptionally it has been recorded on tarmac. Altitudinal range: 0–790 m.

Dicranoweisia cirrata increased widely in the 20th century both geographically and in its range of substrates. Of the 30 pre-1900 specimens in the Natural History Museum, only two came from standing trees, most are from rocks, walls or thatch. As with *Aulacomnium androgynum* and *Dicranum tauricum*, its spread can be attributed to acidification. In spite of recent reductions in SO₂ pollution, it is still a frequent epiphyte, though less so now on trees with base-rich bark.

Monoicous, usually with abundant capsules, mature in winter and spring. Gemmae are often abundant on the dorsal surface of the leaves and are produced on the protonema both in culture and in nature, depending on the substrate (Duckett *et al.*, 2001).

European Temperate. In Europe north to S Fennoscandia, east to the Baltic States and Ukraine, south to the hills and mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Cyprus, Turkey, Caucasus and Georgia to Kazakhstan. Western N America. Records from the Southern Hemisphere are doubtful.

P. H. Pitkin, rev. T.L. Blockeel

