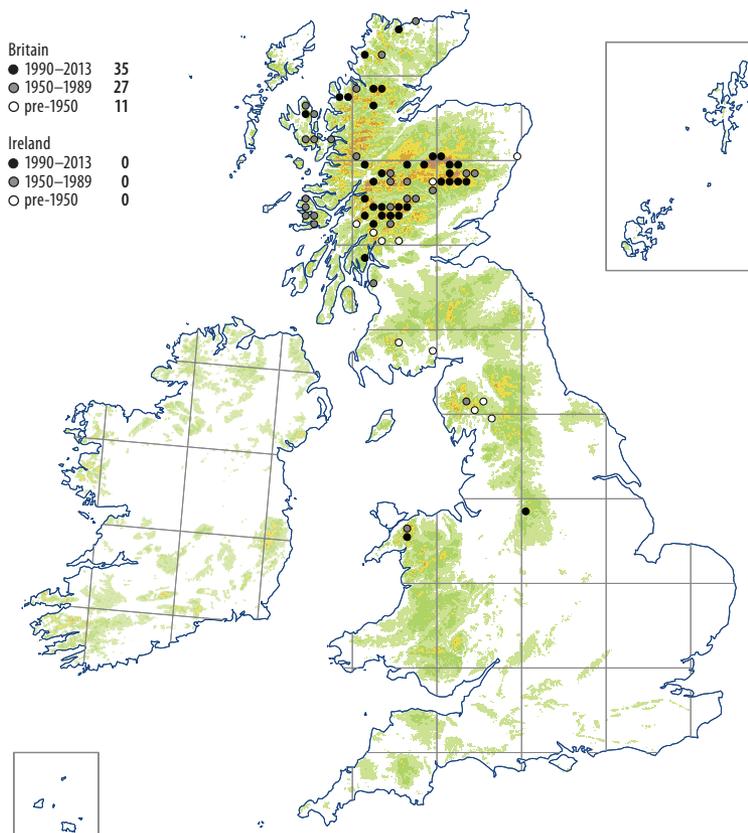


Dicranoweisia crispula



This moss forms cushions, which can be quite large, on open rock surfaces on boulders in scree and more rarely on the base of broken crags in the mountains. It appears to be rather catholic in its substrate preference occurring on both granite and strongly calcareous schist but it is always more abundant on richer rocks and avoids quartzite and the most acid facies of schist. Probably the most typical site is on large, stable boulders at the base of crags or scree where it receives some sunlight but is not too exposed. In this habitat, close associates can be few but common rupestral species like *Andreaea rupestris*, *Racomitrium heterostichum*, *R. sudeticum* and *Tortella tortuosa* are usually close by, and more rarely it occurs with *Paraleucobryum longifolium*, *Pseudoleskea patens* and *Racomitrium himalayana*. The outlying record in the Peak District is of a small population on a mortared gritstone wall. Altitudinal range: 140–1040 m.

Dicranoweisia crispula is inconspicuous and easily overlooked in the absence of capsules, and it is possibly under-recorded. The low proportion of recent records from N Wales and the Lake District is probably due to under-recording there in recent years rather than representing a real decline. Its unexpected discovery in the Peak District (Blockeel, 2010a) indicates an ability to colonise new habitats.

Monoicous; capsules are common, mature in spring and summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in N Europe, reaching the high Arctic, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region; common in the Alps, where it occasionally grows on trees. Macaronesia (Azores), N Africa (Morocco, Algeria), Cyprus, Turkey. Widespread in N Asia, south to Caucasus, W Himalaya, China and Japan. N America, northern Andes (Colombia, Peru), southern S America. Antarctica.

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