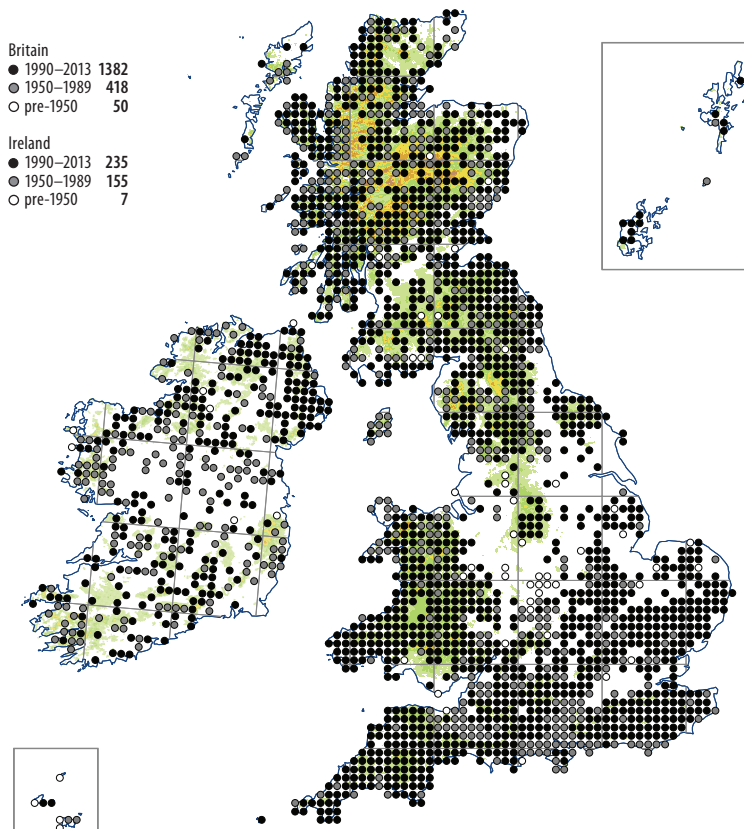


Isoetecium alopecuroides



A characteristic woodland moss, mostly on base-rich formations. It is often abundant on the lower parts of tree boles and their roots and on shaded boulders and crags, forming deep, robust green wefts and often in pure stands. Ash and oak are common host trees. It is associated with other large bryophytes, including *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Isoetecium myosuroides* var. *myosuroides*, *Neckera complanata* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. Though most typically on limestone and other calcareous formations, it extends to mildly acid sites, as on granite and slate. It is a ready colonist of old (often mortared) walls and ruined buildings in sheltered places. By rivers and streams it may occur on silty rocks and tree roots close to running water, though not where regularly inundated. In central and eastern England

it is particularly noted from coppice-stools in woodland. Altitudinal range: 0–690 m.

Many gaps in its distribution have been filled since 1990. Its conspicuous rarity in the N Midlands and southern parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire is real and is explained by the scarcity of base-rich woodland in these areas (outside the Peak District).

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in winter.

European Boreo-temperate. Europe north to Iceland and NW Norway, east to European Russia and the Caucasus, south to the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia (Azores, Canary Islands?), N Africa (Morocco, Algeria). Turkey and Syria east to Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran. Canada (Newfoundland and Ontario).

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