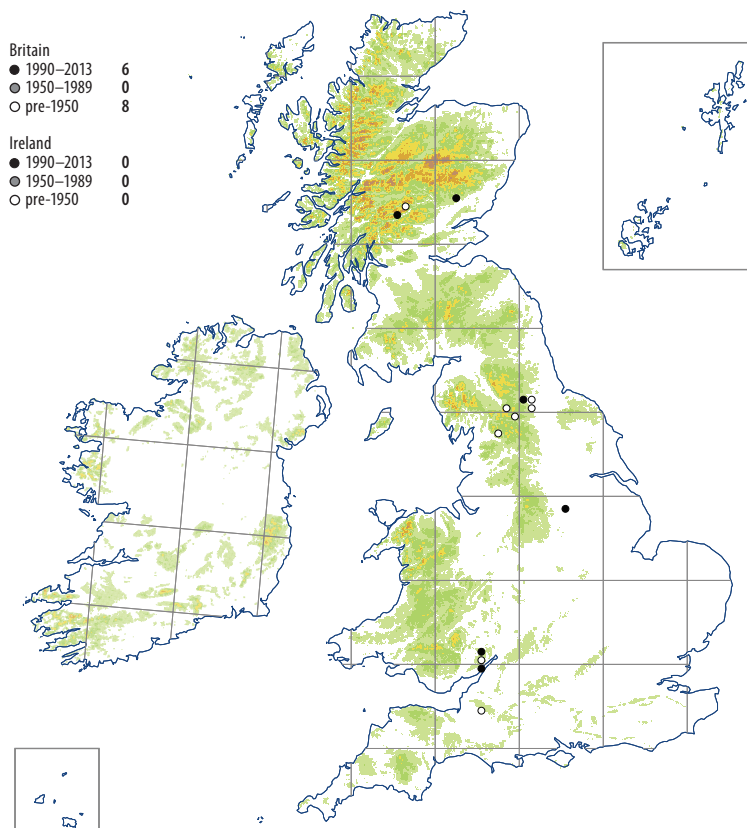


Anomodon longifolius



On shaded, steep or vertical limestone or basic sandstone rocks, sometimes under overhangs, often in wooded valleys and ravines. The label on one old record describes the habitat as a limestone rock ledge. Its British populations tend to be restricted to just one or a few rock faces at individual sites. Some colonies grow in mixture with *Anomodon viticulosus* but the patches are often pure. Other associated species include *Scapania aspera*, *Plasteurhynchium striatulum*, *Neckera complanata* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. In continental Europe it also occurs on forest trees. Altitudinal range: 30–250 m (there are old records from Ingleborough and Ben Lawers at sites not accurately localised, and these may have been at higher elevations).

Dioicous; capsules are not known in Britain. The species lacks special means of vegetative propagation.

Although always very restricted in its occurrence, it has undergone serious decline and individual populations continue to be lost. It has very poor powers of dispersal, and is vulnerable to one-off events such as tree fall, and changes in the micro-environment. The growth of ivy on crags may have contributed to its decline. Like *Anomodon attenuatus* it is widespread and locally frequent in continental Europe.

Eurasian Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe north to N Scandinavia and the N Urals but with a continental distribution and rare in the west, south to N Spain, C Italy and N Greece, absent from the Mediterranean lowlands and islands. Turkey, Caucasus to Azerbaijan, Iran, Siberia, E Asia, Japan. N America (a single record from New York state).

C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel



◀ North of The Slaughter, Wye Valley, West Gloucestershire, 2013.
Richard Lansdown