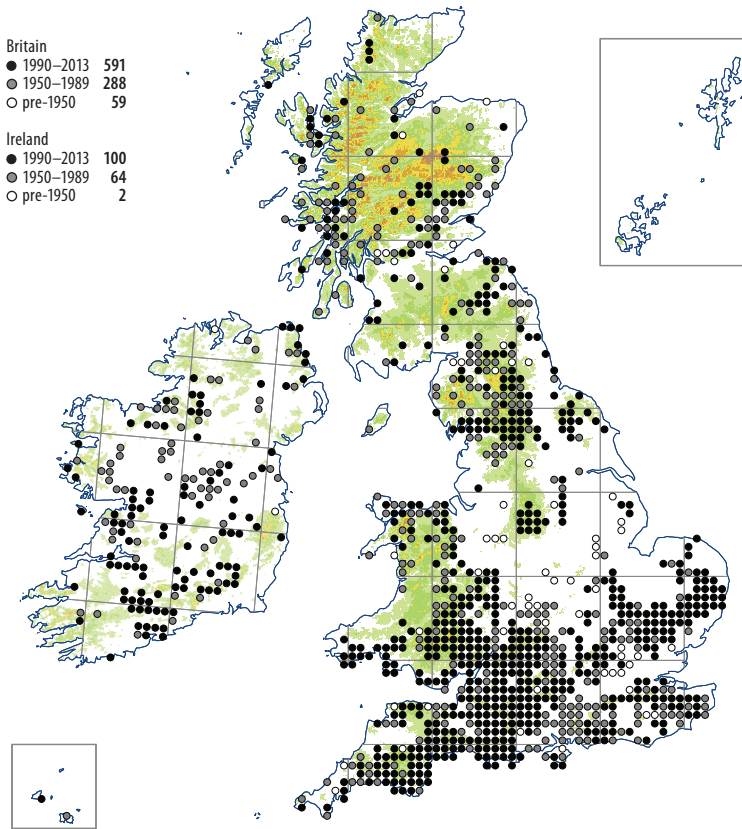


Anomodon viticulosus



Frequent and locally abundant in well-drained calcareous habitats, especially where shaded. On limestone rock outcrops and dry-stone walls it often grows in profusion; other characteristic habitats include basic sandstone rocks, steep chalk hedgebanks, thin closely-grazed chalk grassland (at one site as an epiphyte on *Helianthemum* stems) and the exposed roots, bases and trunks of trees, especially ash and elm, in woods and hedges. It also occurs on silt-covered tree roots, bridges, brick walls and concrete by streams and rivers, and on shaded brickwork and concrete away from water. It is occasionally found in smaller quantity in non-calcareous habitats, including sandstone rocks, siliceous and igneous boulders and Cornish hedges, but it is absent from areas of highly acid or peaty soil. Characteristic associates include *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Porella platyphylla*, *Cirriphyllum crassinervium*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens*

dubius, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Neckera complanata* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. Altitudinal range: 0–460 m.

Dioicous; capsules are very scarce, mature in winter and spring.

It appears to have declined since 1950 in some parts of S England (Adams & Preston, 1992), perhaps because it is slow to colonise new habitats.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe, north to Iceland, N Scandinavia and the N Urals, although rare in the Mediterranean lowlands. Canary Islands (old report), N Africa (Algeria). Turkey, Lebanon, Caucasus. Circumboreal, mainly in the temperate zone, south to India, Himalaya and Yunnan (China) in Asia and Mexico in N America.

C.D. Preston

