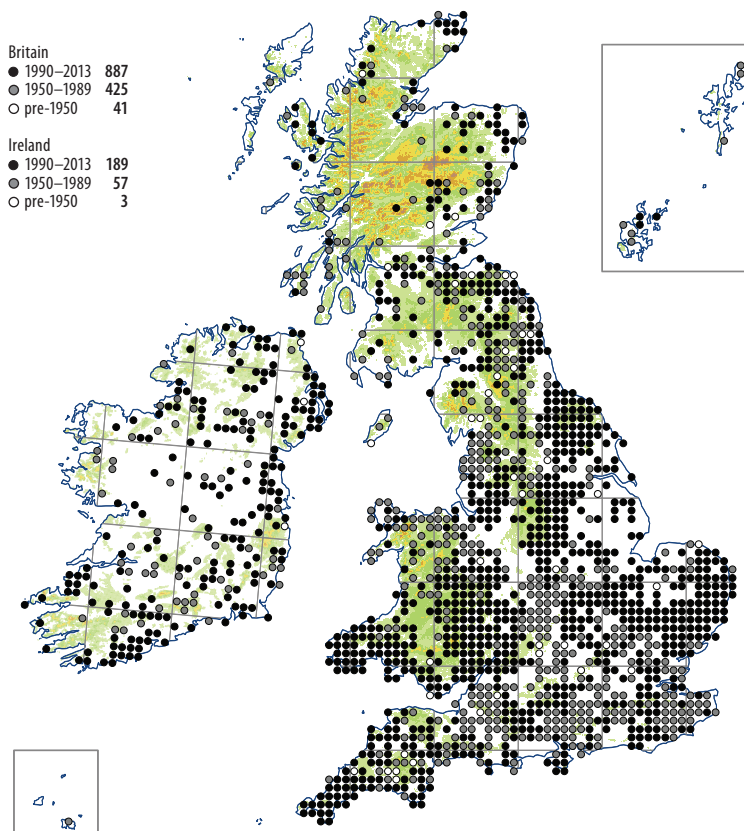


Dicranella schreberiana



A colonist of open habitats on moist, base-rich to slightly acid soils, particularly on clay and loam. It is widespread in arable fields, being a frequent or occasional member of all the different assemblages described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from fields in Britain and Ireland. Common associates are *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella staphylina*, *Phascum cuspidatum*, *Pohlia melanodon*, *Tortula truncata* and *Trichodon cylindricus*. Similarly it is found in grass leys, and on bare or poached ground in fields and marshes. Elsewhere it is less common but may occur wherever suitably moist soil is exposed, such as ditches, roadsides, stream banks, old pits, pond and reservoir margins and coastal slopes. It is tolerant of moderate shade, and may occur on bare or rutted ground by woodland rides and forest tracks. Altitudinal range: 0–730 m.

Hill & Edwards (2003) indicate a possible decline in Dorset, but there is no evidence that this is a general phenomenon. In fact it is probably under-recorded in many areas, especially in arable fields, and the map clearly shows areas where recorders are familiar with the reduced forms often found in such places. There was a marked peak in records during the BBS survey of arable fields.

Dioicous; capsules are rarely able to develop in arable fields, but are occasional elsewhere, mature in autumn. Tubers are abundant on the rhizoids and develop from an early stage in the life-cycle; they can sometimes be found on the protonema.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe, from Iceland and N Norway southwards, but rare and only in the mountains in the Mediterranean region. Azores. Circumboreal, N Asia to China and Japan. N America south to California and Colorado.

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