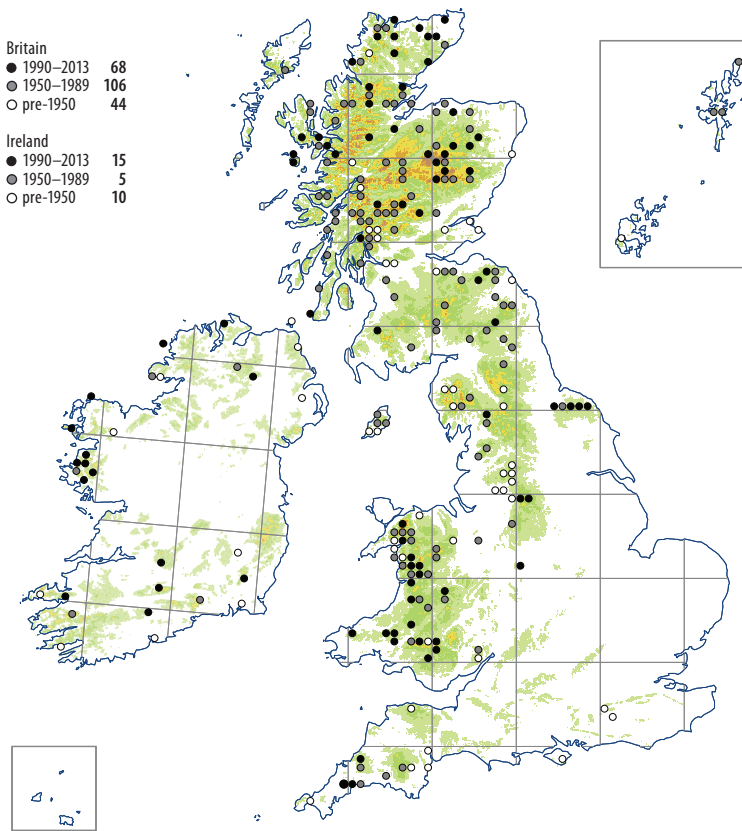


Dicranella subulata



A colonist typically found on damp acid sandy, gravelly or stony ground on sloping or vertical banks and slumps, below cliffs, by streams, and along tracks and roads. It also occurs on moist peaty clay banks, in crevices and on rock ledges, in old sandstone quarries, and (in Cornwall) in china-clay pits. In such habitats it is often associated with *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Lophozia bicrenata*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Ditrichum heteromallum* and *Pogonatum aloides*. At higher altitudes in Scotland it sometimes grows in localities with more base-demanding bryophytes such as *Herbertus stramineus*, *Radula lindenberghiana*, *Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens*, *Paraleptodontium recurvifolium*, *Tetradontium brownianum* and *Trichostomum hibernicum*. Whether it grows on basic substrates at these high altitudes, or whether it is on locally leached acid soil, is unclear. Altitudinal range: 20–1000 m.

The level of recording declined during the 1980s, for reasons that are not clear, but it is an easily overlooked moss and some colonies may be temporary (it has a low index of refinds per hectad).

Diocious; capsules are common, mature in autumn and winter. Rhizoidal tubers are often present.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in the Arctic and boreal zones of Europe, including Iceland and Svalbard, south to C Spain, the Pyrenees, Alps and Balkan mountains, with a few reports from the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Turkey, Caucasus to Kyrgyzstan; N Asia south to southern China (Hainan), Japan. N America south to California.

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