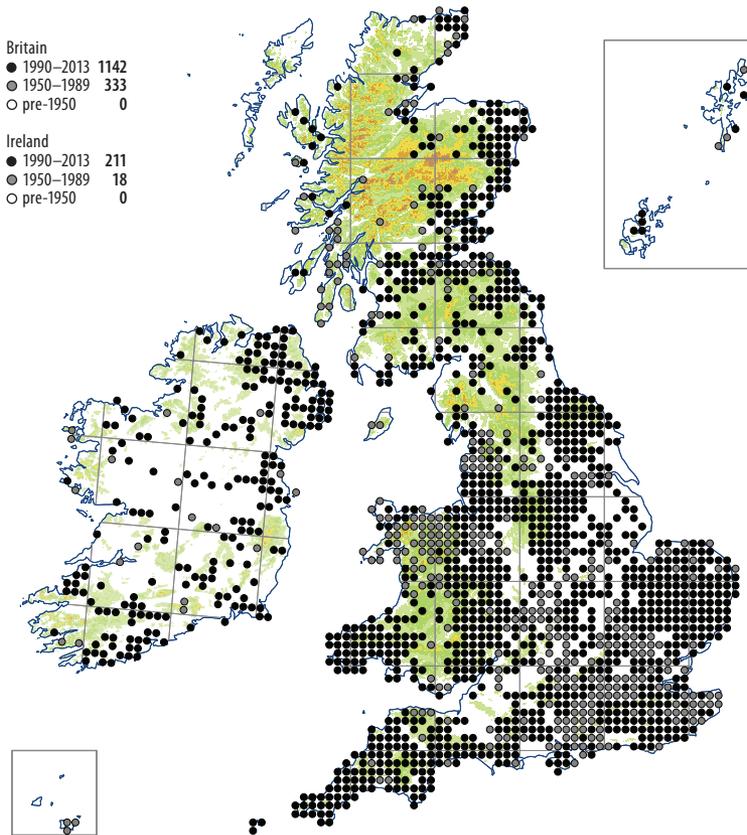


# Dicranella staphylina



This species is abundant in arable fields on non-calcareous soils, and is a defining member of the *Dicranella staphylina*–*Riccia glauca* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from fields with acid soils. Common associates in such fields include *Riccia glauca*, *R. sorocarpa*, tuber-bearing *Bryum* spp., *Dicranella schreberiana*, *Ephemerum minutissimum*, *Tortula truncata* and *Trichodon cylindricus*. It also occurs on bare or disturbed acid soil in many other habitats, including roadsides, gateways, gardens, ditch banks, quarries and gravel pits, reservoir margins, and bare patches in grass leys and pastures. It tolerates moderate shade and may be found on bare soil in woodland and on forest roads and rides. It is much less frequent on chalky and other calcareous soils. Altitudinal range: 0–400 m.

Though not described until 1969, *D. staphylina* is one of the commonest mosses in cultivated areas in the lowlands. Where there are gaps in such areas on the map, this indicates a lack of systematic recording rather than genuine rarity or absence.

Diocious; most plants are female, and males are rare. Capsules are unknown in Britain and Ireland, but have been found in Luxemburg (Arts, 1985). Tubers are always abundant on the rhizoids, except in senescent plants, and are sometimes also found on robust, branched protonemata and on short rhizoids in the lower leaf axils. Filamentous gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished). The tubers appear to be capable of surviving for at least 48 years in damp soil (Whitehouse, 1984).

European Temperate. Widespread in W and C Europe, north to C Scandinavia and S Finland, south to N Spain, Italy, Montenegro and Bulgaria, east to Russia (Moscow Province).

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