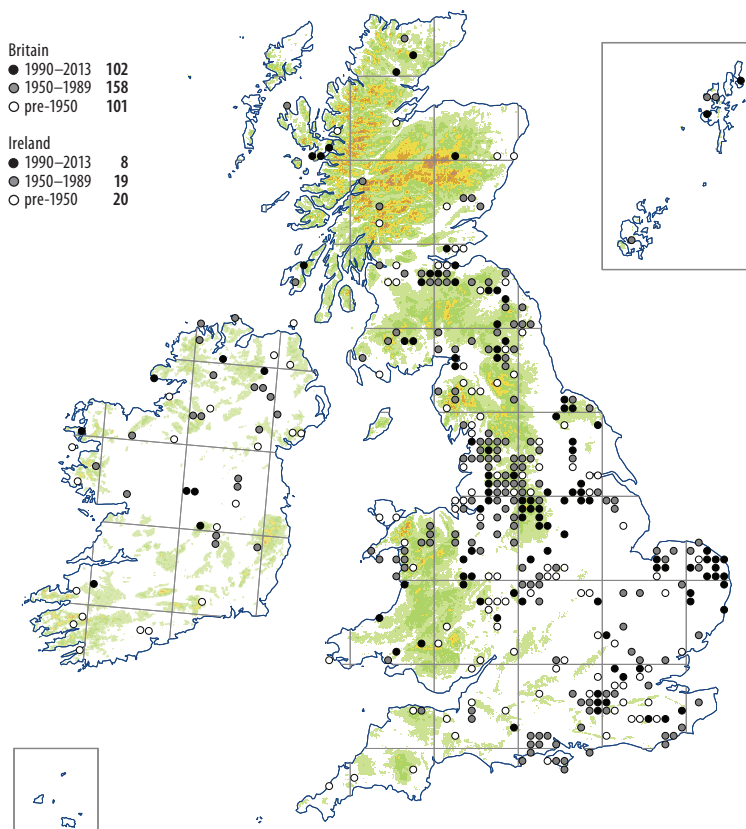


## Dicranella cerviculata



A strong calcifuge, growing on a wide variety of moist, bare acid surfaces. One characteristic habitat is on partially drained peat, especially peat cuttings, in both ombrogenous and minerotrophic mires, often associated with *Dicranella heteromalla*. Similarly it occurs on banks of wet, rotten acid shale exposed on the banks of streams, with *Cephaloziella* spp. and *Gymnocolea inflata*. Other habitats include ditch banks (and soil dredged from ditches), heathland, colliery spoil and old sand pits, where it colonises bare damp sandy/peaty soils and acid clay, and may be associated with *Ditrichum heteromallum*; in the Weald it commonly grows on loose sand derived from weathered sandstone rock. Altitudinal range: 0–420 m.

sand and brick pits, but the cessation of peat-cutting has reduced available habitat in many areas. It is rare on eroding peat on moorlands, perhaps because this habitat is too unstable or not consistently wet enough.

Diocious; capsules are common, mature in late autumn and winter.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. In Europe from Iceland and N Scandinavia south to N Spain, the Alps and the Balkan mountains. Widespread across boreal parts of the Northern Hemisphere, becoming relatively uncommon in the Arctic, extending south in Asia to southern China and in N America to West Virginia.

There has been a sharp decline in the number of records. In the lowlands this is partly due to the loss and in-filling of old

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