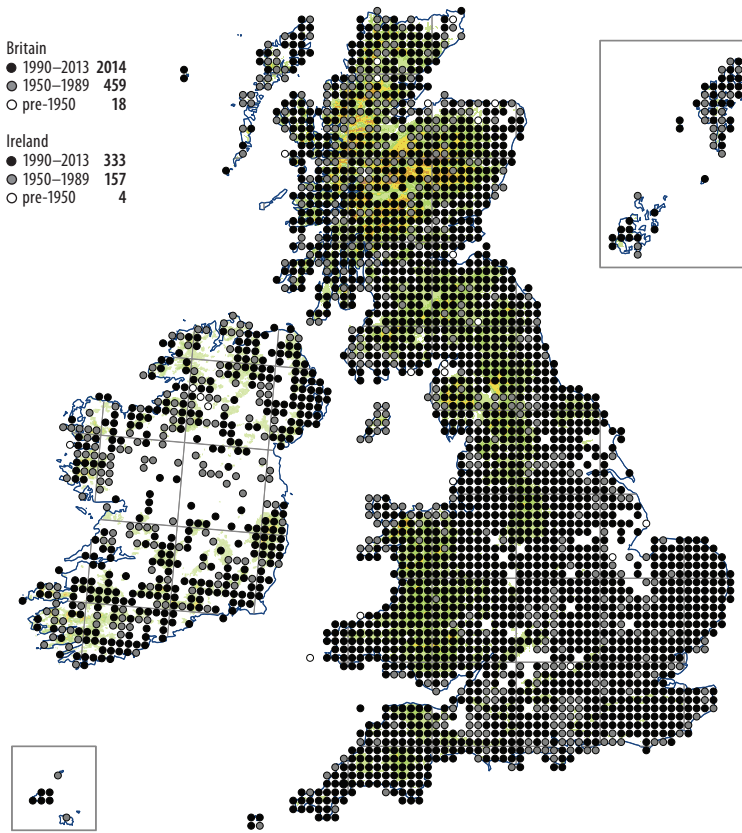


Dicranella heteromalla

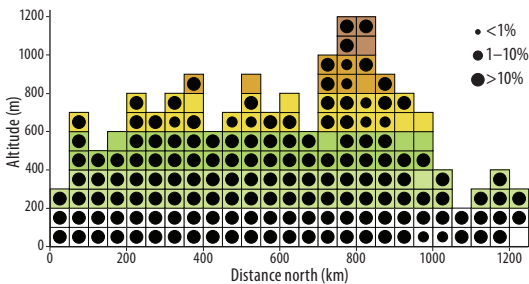


This species is present in a wide variety of non-calcareous habitats and is one of the most frequent and widespread mosses of deciduous and coniferous woodland and similar sheltered habitats such as lanesides, hedgebanks, stream banks and sea cliffs. In woodland it is a characteristic colonist of banks and other places free from leaf litter, typically associated with *Calypogeia arguta*, *C. fissa*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Lepidozia reptans*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* and, on peaty soils, *Tetraphis pellucida*. It may form extensive sheets on sandstone rock faces, especially those that are soft and friable, often growing there with *Lepidozia reptans*, and also on other rocks with a thin layer of soil. It is frequent about tree bases, and occasionally on stumps and old wood. In the uplands it is common by streams, growing on banks, detritus and thin soil on boulders, and elsewhere in rock crevices,

among boulders and beside paths. On moors and heaths it occurs on peaty banks and cuttings. Even in calcareous districts it occurs frequently on pockets of acid humus, as around the bases of trees. Altitudinal range: 0–1080 m.

Dioicous; capsules are common, mature in winter and spring. The protonema of *Dicranella heteromalla* is perennial and produces filamentous gemmae (Duckett & Matcham, 1995); it is clearly an important component of the reproductive biology of the species.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Much of Europe, but scarcely reaching the Arctic and rare in the Mediterranean lowlands. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Lebanon, Caucasus to Kyrgyzstan. Widespread across the Northern Hemisphere, mainly in the boreal and broadleaved deciduous forest zones. C America and western S America. C Africa (Kenya).



R.D. Porley, rev. T.L. Blockeel