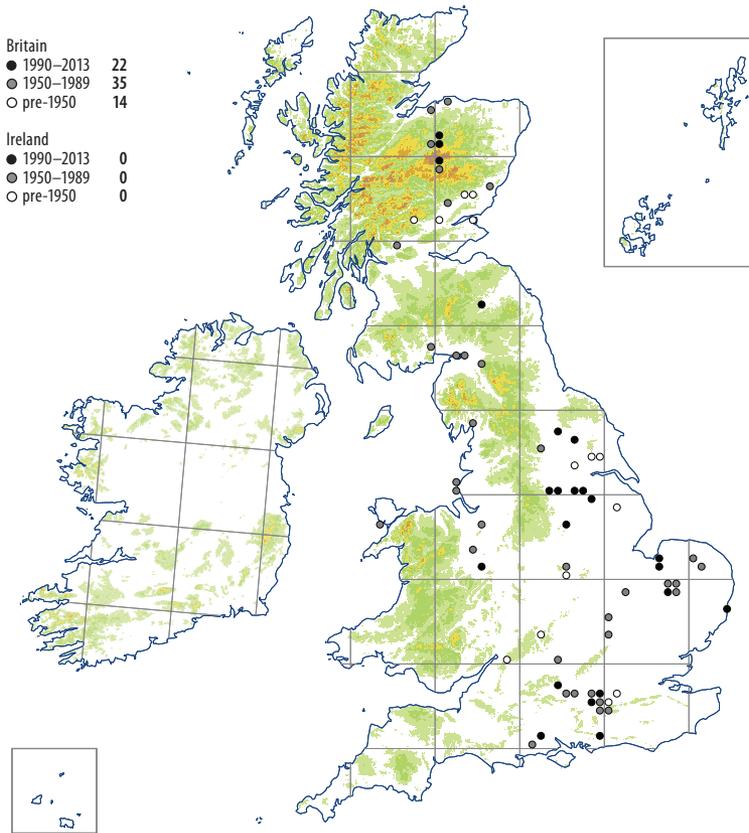


Dicranum polysetum



A lowland calcifuge species commonly found on the ground in woods and plantations, especially under pine and birch, often growing among heather, but also among grass or with other bryophytes such as *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Pleurozium schreberi*. It also occurs among ericaceous shrubs on dry and wet heath, and on raised bogs, and it is recorded from peat on a former raised bog destroyed by peat harvesting at Hatfield in South Yorkshire. It has been found recently as a colonist of former coal tips in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, associated with *Dicranum scoparium* in young open birch woodland (Lake & Egan, 2011). Altitudinal range: 0–505 m.

This conspicuous species was not recorded until 1848 near Kinnordy, Angus, though there is an earlier unconfirmed record from Yorkshire. The number of records increased

during the 20th century, and new sites continue to be found, but many of them may represent transitory populations as *D. polysetum* is characteristic of boreal and continental climates. The recent records from old coal tips are evidence of continuing but often temporary colonisation and/or spore drift.

Dioicous, with dwarf male plants. Capsules have not been found in Britain, but are plentiful in Scandinavia and the Baltic region. Many of the British populations may have their origin in spores from continental Europe.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. A characteristic boreal forest species, widespread in N, C and E Europe but rare in the Arctic, not in Iceland or Svalbard; rare southwards to N Spain and Sierra Nevada, N Italy and Bulgaria, and reported from Sardinia, Turkey, Caucasus, N Asia, Japan, N America, especially in the boreal zone (south to Colorado and North Carolina).

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