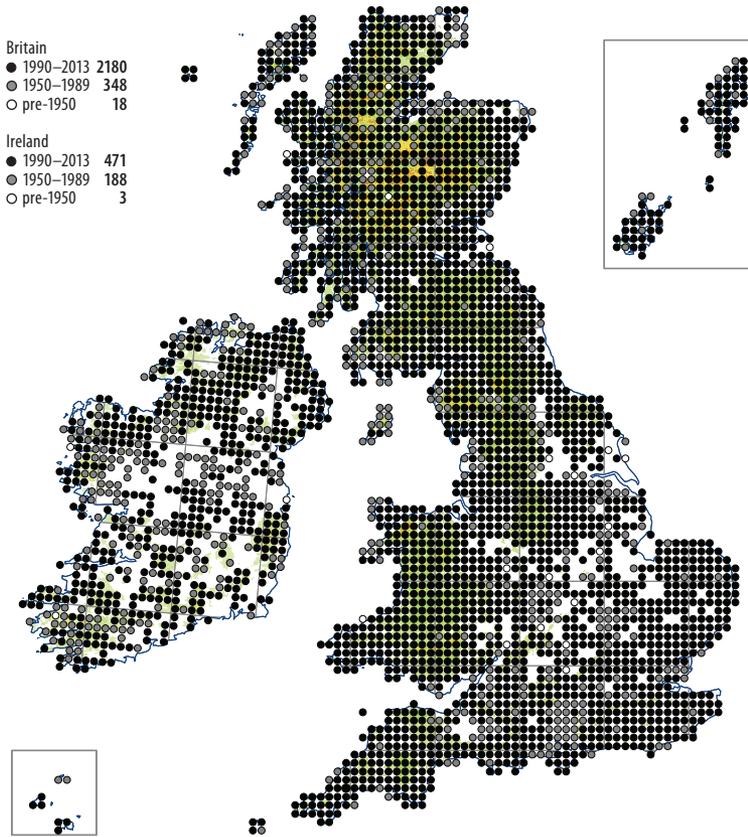


Dicranum scoparium



A common calcifuge with an extremely wide ecological range. It grows on soil, rocks, trees and stumps in open or shaded habitats, being particularly abundant on the ground in acid woodland and on heaths and moors, often under tall heather. It also occurs in marshes, in unimproved acid and leached calcareous grassland, on fixed dunes, in turf on the top of boulders, on rocks in woods, on logs and rotten stumps, among sphagnum in bogs, among rocks on hills and mountains, and in late-snow areas and in mountain-top turf. It is also common as an epiphyte on tree trunks and branches, though in drier lowland areas often only as small isolated tufts. It readily colonises former industrial sites such as pits, quarries and spoil heaps. In lowland areas with intensive agriculture, churchyards provide an important refuge, not just in turf but frequently on chippings on neglected graves. With such a wide range of habitats

it has a great range of associates, but among the most frequent are *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichastrum formosum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* in acid woodland, *P. juniperinum* on dry boulder tops, *Hypnum jutlandicum* on heaths and moors and under conifers, and *H. cupressiforme* on trees such as oak and hawthorn. Altitudinal range: 0–1160 m.

It is rare only in the intensively cultivated lowlands, and most of the gaps in its distribution have been filled since the 1991–1994 Atlas.

Dioicous, with dwarf male plants. Capsules are rare in the drier south-east, more frequent in humid sites and high-rainfall areas, maturing from winter to summer. Small-leaved innovations similar to those of *Dicranum leioneuron* apparently occur, but only rarely.

Circumpolar Wide-Boreal. Almost throughout Europe, north to Svalbard, but less frequent in the south and absent from some Mediterranean islands. Macaronesia and N Africa (Algeria, Tunisia). Turkey, Iran. Throughout the temperate Northern Hemisphere, south to the Himalaya and Taiwan in Asia, and Mexico in N America. In the Southern Hemisphere in Australia (New South Wales) and New Zealand.

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