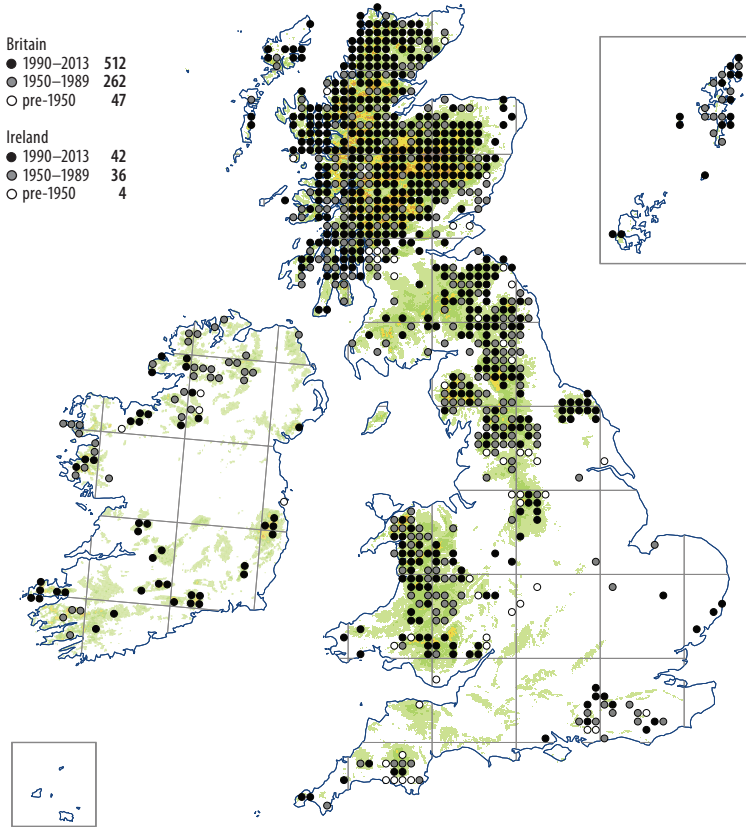


Dicranum fuscescens



Occurs in a wide range of well-drained acid habitats. In woodland it is found on tree bases, trunks and branches, especially of oak, ash and birch, often with *Hypnum andoi* or *H. cupressiforme*. It is also found on stumps, particularly of conifers, with *Campylopus flexuosus* and *Pohlia nutans*, and on boulders and vertical rock faces, where its many associates include *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Scapania gracilis*, *Campylopus flexuosus*, *Isoetecium myosuroides* and *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. It occupies similar habitats in more or less open ravines. In the hills it occurs on exposed rocky bluffs and boulders, in block litter, on sheltered boulders and cliffs in corries, in areas of late snow-lie, on stony ground or in turf on summits and exposed mountain sides with *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and *R. sudeticum*, and rarely on dry peaty ground on moorland. Altitudinal range: 5–1160 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in summer.

Dicranum fuscescens intergrades morphologically with *D. flexicaule* (see under that species), and in western regions it is easily confused with *D. scottianum* when capsules are lacking, but any mapped errors are unlikely to have significant impact on the overall distribution. Records of *D. fuscescens* s.l. are included on the map.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. N, C and E Europe including Iceland and Svalbard, becoming montane in the south, reaching the mountains of the northern Mediterranean region. Madeira. Turkey, Caucasus. Widespread across N Asia, including the Arctic, to Japan. N America (south to New Mexico and Georgia).

M.F.V. Corley, rev. T.L. Blockeel

