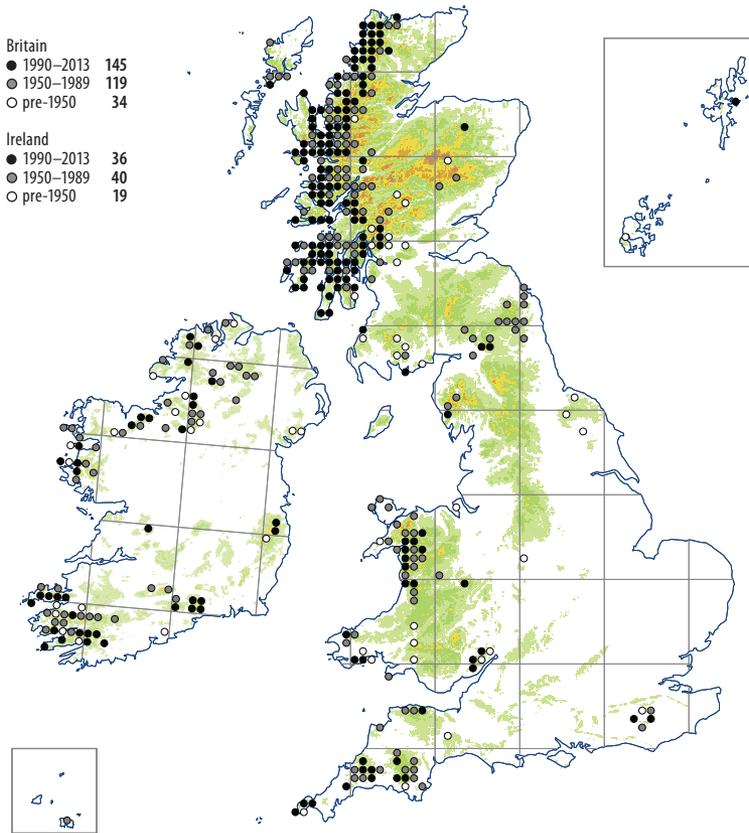


# Dicranum scottianum



Largely confined to dry, acid, near-vertical rock faces of boulders and cliffs. It occurs in sheltered sites by the sea such as the boulders and cliffs of raised beaches, in light birch and hazel woodland, in ravines, and on open hillsides with a northerly or sheltered aspect. It is very rare as an epiphyte. In the Weald it grows on sandstone rocks, but elsewhere it is found on a wide variety of harder rock types including granite, andesite and Lewisian gneiss. It is often associated with other western species such as *Bazzania trilobata*, *Lepidozia cupressina* and *Scapania gracilis*. Other associates include *Barbilophozia attenuata*, *Frullania tamarisci* and *Isoetecium myosuroides*. Altitudinal range: 0–450 m.

Its overall range has changed little since the 1991–1994 Atlas, but its distribution in W Scotland is now much more complete. It is unclear whether the paucity of post-1990

records from NE England and S Scotland indicates a real decline there.

Diocious; capsules are moderately frequent, mature in summer.

In the absence of capsules it may be overlooked as *Dicranum fuscescens*. Indeed some forms of *D. fuscescens* and particularly *D. flexicaule* may be very difficult to separate from it on morphological grounds, but there are probably few errors on the map.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. W Europe from N Spain to southern Norway and Sweden. Macaronesia. Some populations from Madeira and the Canary Islands (and possibly France and Spain) have been recognised as a distinct species, *D. canariense* Hampe ex Müll. Hal., but this form is not yet known in Britain or Ireland.

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