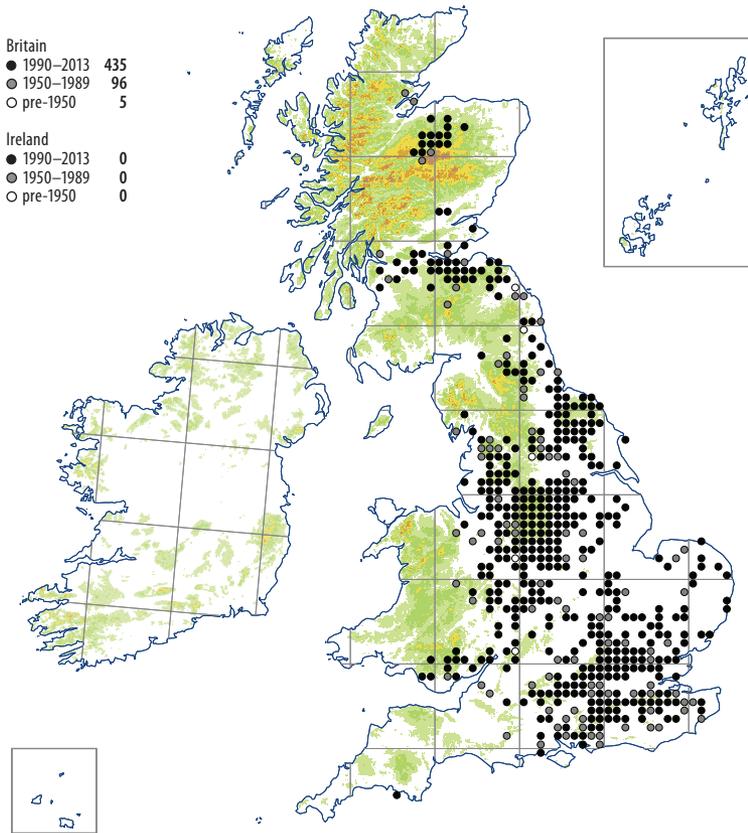


# Dicranum tauricum

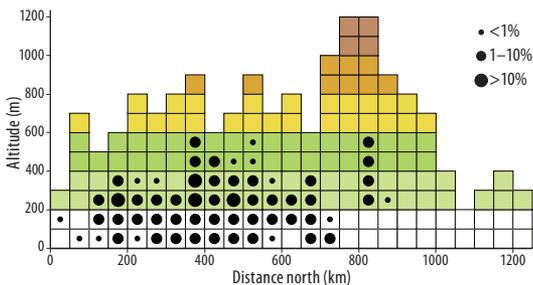


**A** calcifuge and mainly epiphytic moss, typically occurring on the trunks of larger trees, rarely on twigs and small branches, and usually in light to moderate shade. Unlike many epiphytic bryophytes, it is most common on the acid bark of trees such as birch and alder, though it is recorded on wide range of other species including ash, beech, elder, hawthorn and oak. It is also widespread on the decaying wood of stumps, logs and fallen branches in woodland, and more rarely on sheltered siliceous rocks. The most frequent associates are *Lepidozia reptans*, *Lophocolea heterophylla*, *Dicranoweisia cirrata*, *Hypnum andoi* and *H. cupressiforme*. Altitudinal range: 5–450 m.

It was first recorded in Britain in Staffordshire in 1864. It increased greatly in abundance in the mid 20th century, and records peaked in the 1990s. This was almost certainly

a response to acid deposition, as its greatest expansion occurred near industrial centres. More recently it has become less common on the base-rich bark of trees such as ash and elder, but it is still widespread if somewhat less abundant than formerly.

Dioicous; capsules were thought to be very rare in Britain, but have been reported on several occasions since 2000 (Hill, 2013), mature in summer; they are apparently rare also in C Europe, but they have been noted regularly in N Greece (TLB, *pers. obs.*) and are said to be frequent in N America. Vegetative propagation is by means of the highly fragile leaves whose tips are invariably broken off. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture and in nature (Duckett & Matcham, unpublished), and leaf and axillary gemmae are locally frequent in C Europe (Stebel *et al.*, 2012).



European Temperate. Widespread in Europe, north to Iceland and Svalbard, but mainly western and southern in Fennoscandia, extending south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region, to S Portugal, Corsica, S Italy and N Greece. It has expanded its range recently in C Europe and is now widespread towards the East (Stebel *et al.*, 2012), reaching European Russia. N Africa (Algeria). Turkey, Caucasus, Russian Far East. Western N America.

T.L. Blockeel