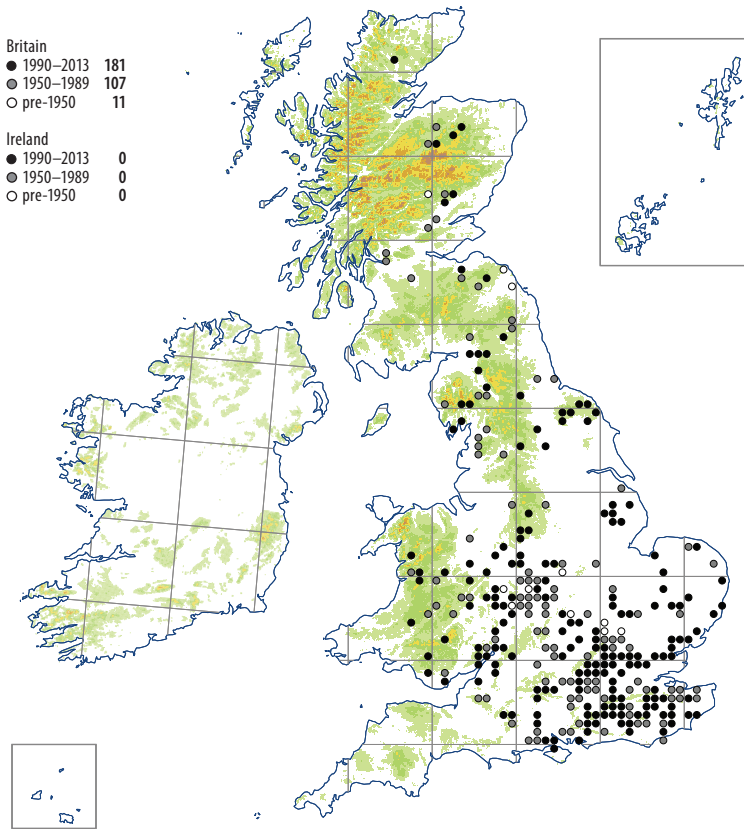


Dicranum montanum



Usually found in woodland, this species typically grows on the trunks and branches of trees, especially those with relatively acid bark such as alder, birch, hawthorn and oak, but also on ash, apple, elm and hazel, among others. It forms tufts and sometimes extended patches, often with *Hypnum cupressiforme*. It is also common on logs and stumps with species such as *Lepidozia reptans* and *Lophocolea heterophylla* but only rarely on sandstone and siliceous rocks. Altitudinal range: 15–350 m.

It is often found in old woodland but during the mid 20th century it spread rapidly (like *Dicranum tauricum*), probably as a result of acid deposition. Its expansion may have originated from old forest populations. Records peaked in the mid 1990s in polluted areas, and it has probably been lost from some sites since then following reductions in SO₂ pollution.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain. Deciduous leaves are normally present in abundance and are presumably important for dispersal; some populations consist almost entirely of small loose-leaved plants. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture and in nature (Duckett & Matcham, unpublished).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. C and N Europe, reaching the Arctic in Fennoscandia, but not in Iceland or Svalbard, rare in the south, reaching N Spain, Corsica and Bulgaria but absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Madeira, Turkey, Caucasus to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Widespread in the temperate zones of Asia and N America (very common in eastern N America).

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