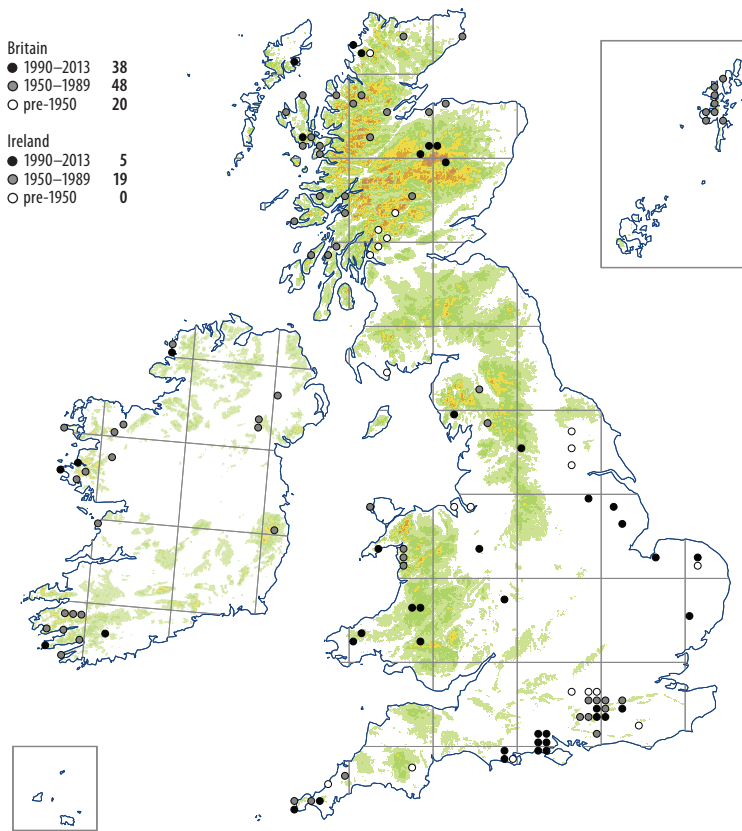


Fossombronia foveolata



On damp, acid, sparsely vegetated soil, usually at the edge of ponds, lakes or streams, less often by reservoirs, in dried-up pools and ditches or on wet rides, paths and tracks. It has also been recorded from china-clay workings in Cornwall. It often grows in sites where sandy or gravelly soil is mixed with a peaty component but it is sometimes found on purer sands, gravels or peats, and on mud. *Fossombronia wondraczekii*, *Haplomitrium hookeri*, *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *R. incurvata*, *Riccia sorocarpa* and *Archidium alternifolium* have been recorded as associates. Lakeside populations fluctuate in numbers from year to year, plants being most abundant in dry summers when the water level is low and much suitable habitat is exposed. Altitudinal range: 10–415 m.

This species is Red Listed in 50% of the European countries in which it occurs, but there is scant evidence for a decline in Britain and Ireland, just a dip in records in the 1990s.

Monoicous. Sporophytes are common, recorded as early as May and as late as November but are usually found between July and September.

European Boreo-temperate. Widespread in C and N Europe, south-westwards to Portugal (but not Spain) and east to European Russia and Turkey. Réunion and Mauritius; eastern and western N America; Cuba.

C.D. Preston, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet

