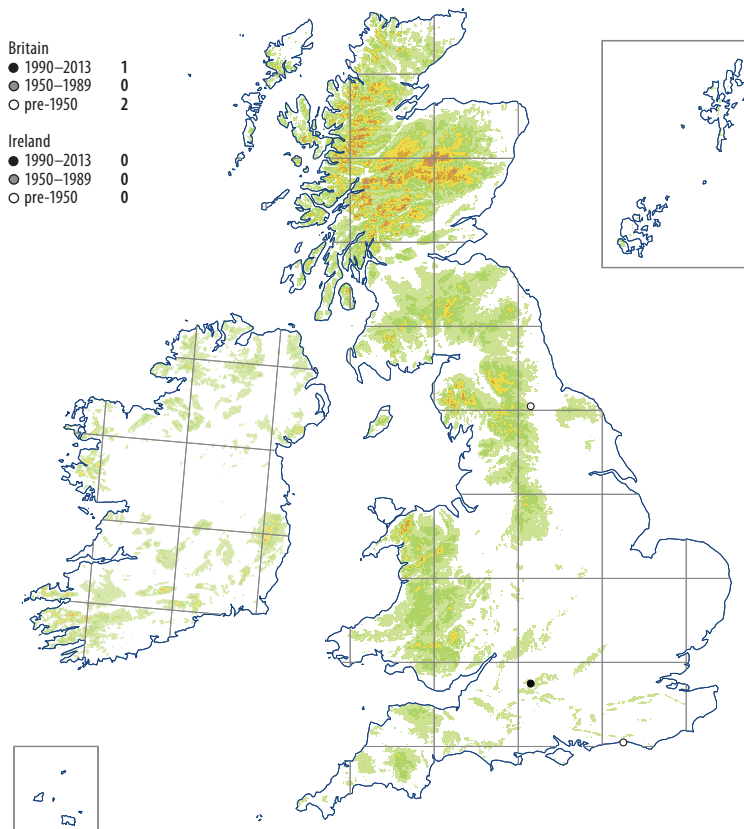


Didymodon glaucus



This species has been recorded from chalk in Sussex and Wiltshire and Carboniferous Limestone in Yorkshire, but is known to persist only in Wiltshire, and there precariously. It is tolerant of shade and at its extant site it grows in crevices and clefts on chalk cliffs and on soil on ledges where shade limits competition. Species recorded nearby include *Pellia endiviifolia*, *Fissidens gracilifolius*, *Didymodon tophaceus*, *D. rigidulus*, and *Pohlia melanodon*. No voucher is known for the Yorkshire record, which was made about 1914 on rocks near Richmond, and its accuracy must therefore be in some doubt. In Sussex, the locality was a chalk pit near Shoreham but the plant has not been seen there since 1915. In

C Europe it has been found increasingly on artificial substrates, typically on the mortar of old, partly shaded walls, often associated with *D. rigidulus* (*J. Kučera, pers. comm.*). Altitudinal range: 185 m.

The species almost disappeared from its Wiltshire site, but active management to expose fresh chalk has been successful and has resulted in the establishment of new colonies. Porley (2007, 2008a) gives full details of the history, ecology and conservation of the species in Britain and elsewhere.

Dioicous; only female inflorescences have been found in Britain, while the closely related but rarely recognised *D. verbanus* (W.E. Nicholson & Dixon) Loeske from the Italian Lakes region, Switzerland, southern Germany and Austria has only been found male or in a vegetative state. Gemmae are produced in chains on modified rhizoids in the leaf axils, and are produced on the protonema in culture (Duckett *et al.*, 2004).

Eurasian Temperate. A rare species, scattered through C Europe and northern Italy, very rare northwards to C Scandinavia, also reported from Greece. Scattered records from Turkey, S Siberia, Mongolia, China and Japan.

T.L. Blockeel



◀ Bincknoll Dip Wood, North Wiltshire, 2007. Ron Porley