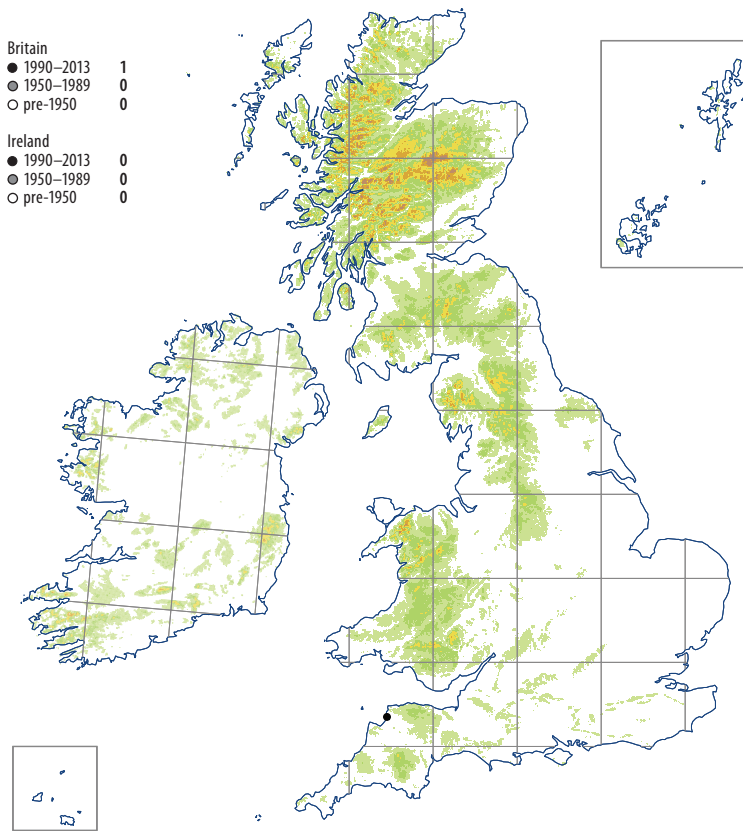


## Didymodon cordatus



Found as small tufts, growing on soil derived from soft sandstone rock (Greensand) at a single locality in Devon on a south-facing sea cliff and in smaller quantity where the same rock outcrops on a nearby roadside bank. The soil on which it grows is partially stabilised by crustose lichens. Annual vascular plant and bryophyte associates include *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Cerastium diffusum*, *Erodium cicutarium*, *Myosotis ramosissima*, *Aloina aloides*, *Barbula convoluta*, *Bryum bicolor*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Didymodon luridus*, *Microbryum starckeanum*, *Pseudocrossidium revolutum*, *Tortula atrovirens*, *Trichostomum brachydontium*, *T. crispulum*

and *Zygodon viridissimus*. When first found at this locality in 1903, it grew on an earth-covered wall top, a habitat that was much more common formerly than it is now. Its occurrence on sandstone is not typical of its habitat elsewhere in Europe, where it is often found on soft calcareous substrates such as loess. Altitudinal range: 20–70 m.

The cliff that forms its principal habitat is subject to natural erosion, but this is probably beneficial to the moss in maintaining an open habitat.

Dioicous; only female plants are known in Britain. Axillary gemmae are abundant in nature, and gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

European Southern-temperate. C and S Europe, north to the Netherlands and Poland, east to the Crimea, Caucasus and Tajikistan, but absent from most of the Mediterranean islands and not known from N Africa. SW Asia. S Siberia, the Russian far-east. N America (Colorado) (J. Kučera, pers. comm.).

R.D. Porley, rev. T.L. Blockeel



◀ Saunton, North Devon, 2005. David Holyoak