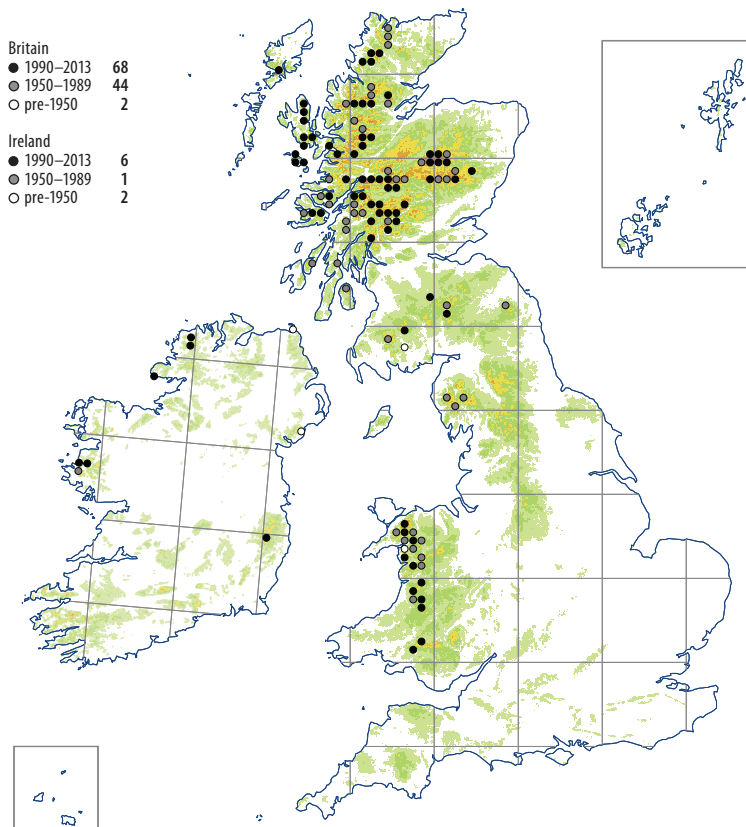


Ditrichum zonatum



A species of acid skeletal soils and rocks, occurring in crevices and amongst block scree in corries and gullies, as well as on exposed ridges; rarely it occurs in silted crevices by upland burns. It is highly characteristic of the hepatic-mat communities of late snowbeds and flushes in relatively sheltered situations with northerly and easterly aspects. In this habitat it is associated with many typical chionophilous species, including *Anthelia* spp., *Gymnomitrium concinatum*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Marsupella* spp., *Moerckia blyttii*, *Nardia breidleri*, *Pleurocladula albescens* and *Conostomum tetragonum*. When growing among block scree and in rock crevices it is often associated with *Diplophyllum taxifolium*, *Marsupella* spp., *Andreaea* spp., *Kiaeria* spp., *Oligotrichum hercynicum*, *Polytrichum* spp. and *Racomitrium* spp. Altitudinal range: 40–1340 m.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain and Ireland. Shoot tips are caducous and probably act as a means of vegetative propagation. Rhizoidal tubers have been observed but are apparently rare (Arts, 1994).

European Arctic-montane. Iceland, N Fennoscandia and NW Russia south to the Pyrenees and the mountains of C Europe and the Balkans. Japan. Western N America. Possibly more widespread but not always recognised as distinct from *Ditrichum heteromallum*.

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▼ Slieve League, West Donegal, 2008. Nick Hodgetts

