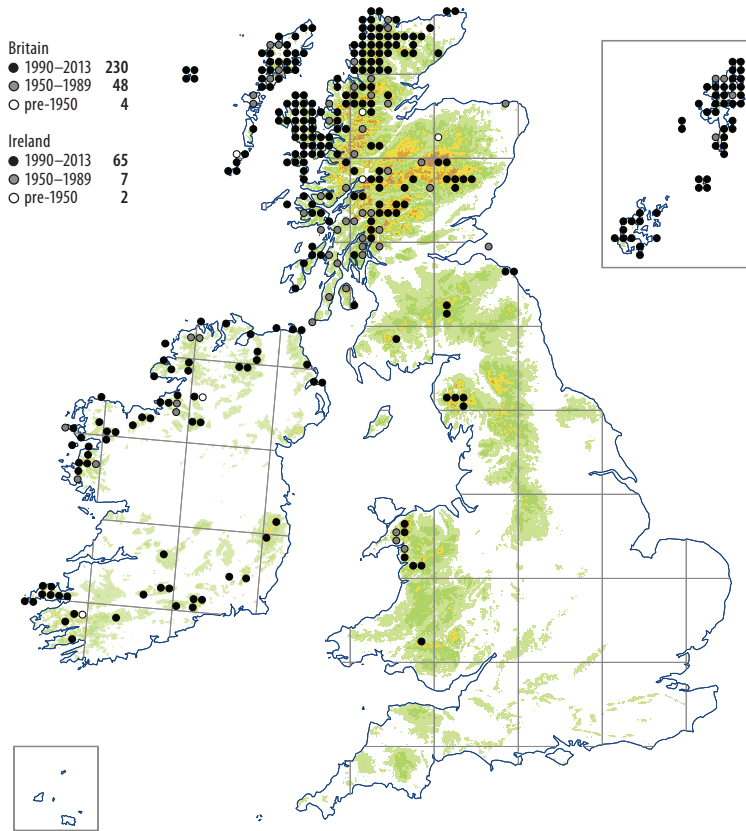


Isothecium myosuroides var. *brachythecioides*



Primarily a taxon of sheltered niches on crags and rarely in block scree where it can occur on a variety of mildly basic to strongly acid rocks including the most dour of quartzites. In the north-west of Scotland and particularly in the Western and Northern Isles it also occurs in exposed, well-drained coastal turf on rocky slopes and gullies. On rocks it occurs with a range of other common species including *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Heterocladium heteropterum* var. *heteropterum*, *Isothecium myosuroides* var. *myosuroides*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Racomitrium fasciculare* and *R. lanuginosum*. In turf it occurs with *Agrostis* cf. *vinealis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Mnium hornum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and rarely *Sanionia orthothecioides*. Altitudinal range: 0–980 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare.

The status of var. *brachythecioides* is uncertain. It is usually clearly distinct from var. *myosuroides* but in N Scotland it is said to intergrade completely with it, e.g. in Shetland (Hill & Paton, 1976).

Hyperoceanic Temperate. Iceland, Faeroes, Norway and Spain. Also reported from Turkey.

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