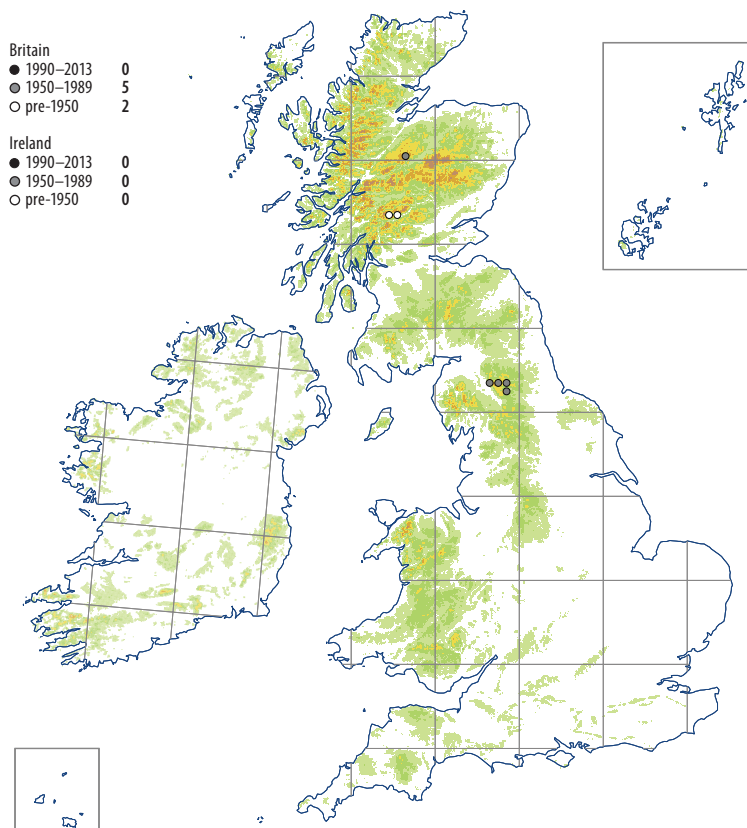


Aplodon wormskioldii



A typical member of the Splachnaceae occurring on carrion and animal scats or bird pellets in wet areas in the hills. Almost all of the records are from areas with a notable calcicole flora but it is not clear from the available information whether *Aplodon wormskioldii* occurred in calcareous flushes at these sites. The last record of the species, in Easternness, was from a sheep carcass in a mire on distinctly acid ground; associated species here were *Splachnum ampullaceum*, *S. sphaericum* and *Tetraplodon mnioides*. Altitudinal range: 325–870 m.

Last seen in 1981, *A. wormskioldii* is possibly now extinct in Britain. In the absence of capsules it is not easy to distinguish

from *Splachnum sphaericum* and it is just possible that it still persists somewhere in the hills. It is at the edge of its range here and therefore always vulnerable, but there may also have been changes in the populations of the flies that act as vectors.

Autoicous; capsules are apparently frequent, mature in summer; the spores are transported by flies.

Circumpolar Arctic-montane. Svalbard, N Scandinavia and N Russia, Estonia. Arctic and N Siberia and the Arctic Far East. Northern N America, Greenland.

G.P. Rothero



◀ Sheep-shaped colony of *Aplodon wormskioldii*, Alston Moor, Cumberland, 1968. John Birks