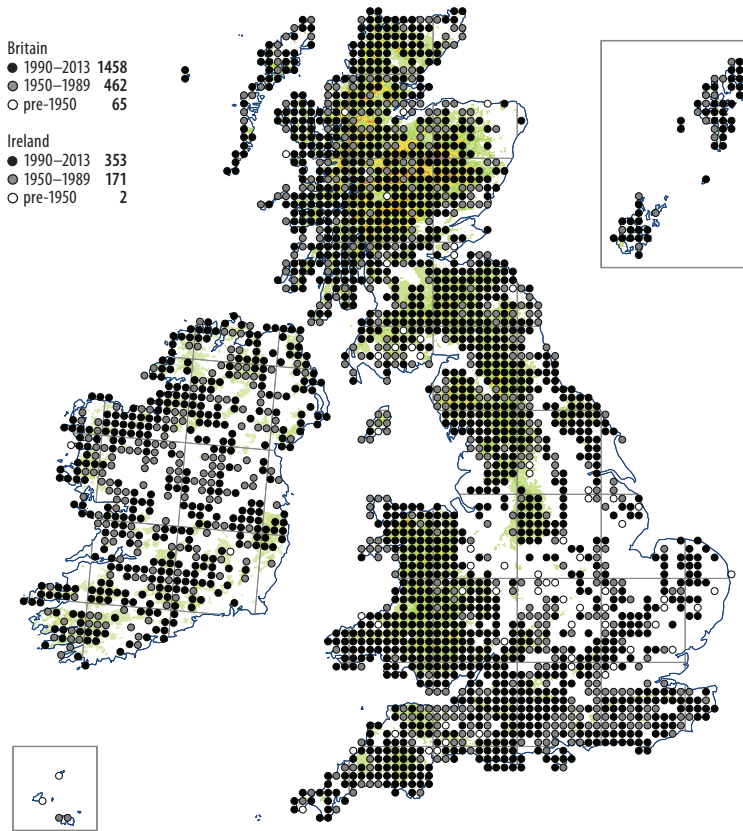


Ctenidium molluscum



Forming dense and sometimes extensive yellow-green patches, or mixed with other bryophytes, most abundantly in base-rich habitats, often where there is some shade or shelter but also in exposed places. Thus on chalk, limestone and other calcareous formations it is common among rocks in woodland, about rock outcrops, on boulders, scree and limestone pavement, and on old walls, typically with other large calcicoles such as *Fissidens dubius* and *Tortella tortuosa*. In the uplands it is likely to be found wherever base-rich rocks are exposed. It is also frequent in unimproved calcareous turf with *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus*, and in dune grassland. A form (informally referred to as the 'woodland taxon') is widespread in southern regions as a component of the ground flora in woodland on neutral to mildly acid soils. Although *Ctenidium molluscum* is characteristic of well-drained and

seasonally dry habitats, it is also a wetland moss, occurring in calcareous fens and base-rich seepages and flushes with *Campylium stellatum*. Large forms (var. *condensatum*) occur on flushed basic rocks and stony seepages, mostly in the mountains, and an even larger and often red-tinged plant (var. *robustum*) is a striking moss of irrigated mountain rocks. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rather rare but locally abundant, mature in spring.

Although the varieties and the 'woodland taxon' can appear very distinctive, they intergrade and have not been recorded consistently. They are not mapped separately here.

European Boreo-temperate. Throughout Europe, including the Arctic, east to NW Russia, Ukraine and Caucasus, southwards to the Mediterranean region, where it is mainly in the hills and mountains. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Iran, Siberia and E Asia, Japan. North-western N America (Alaska, Yukon Territory). *Ctenidium* from eastern N America is now assigned to a separate species, *C. malacodes* Mitt.

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