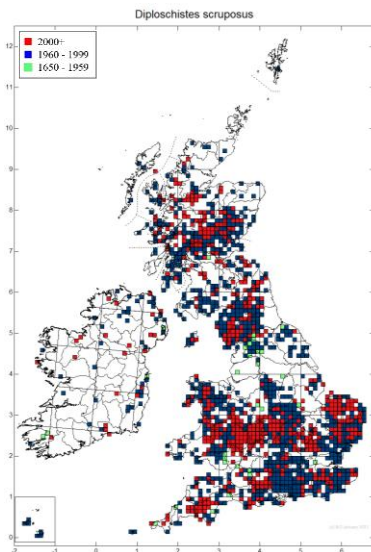


Diploschistes scruposus



Identification: This lichen forms a thick, finely cracked and rather lumpy pale grey crust, usually with a characteristic brownish-yellow tinge. The thallus may extend to 10 cm or more, and form mosaics. The distinctive apothecia are up to 3 mm diameter and are deeply concave with an incurved margin. The disc is black but often has a paler 'powdery' coating.

Chemistry: Thallus C+ red, K± yellow.

Similar species: *Diploschistes muscorum* has a whiter thallus and occurs mainly on calcareous substrates.

Habitat: Mainly on siliceous rocks, boulders and drystone walls, in upland and lowland sites, especially where nutrient-enriched.

Distribution: Frequent in much of Britain. It is much less frequent in Ireland.