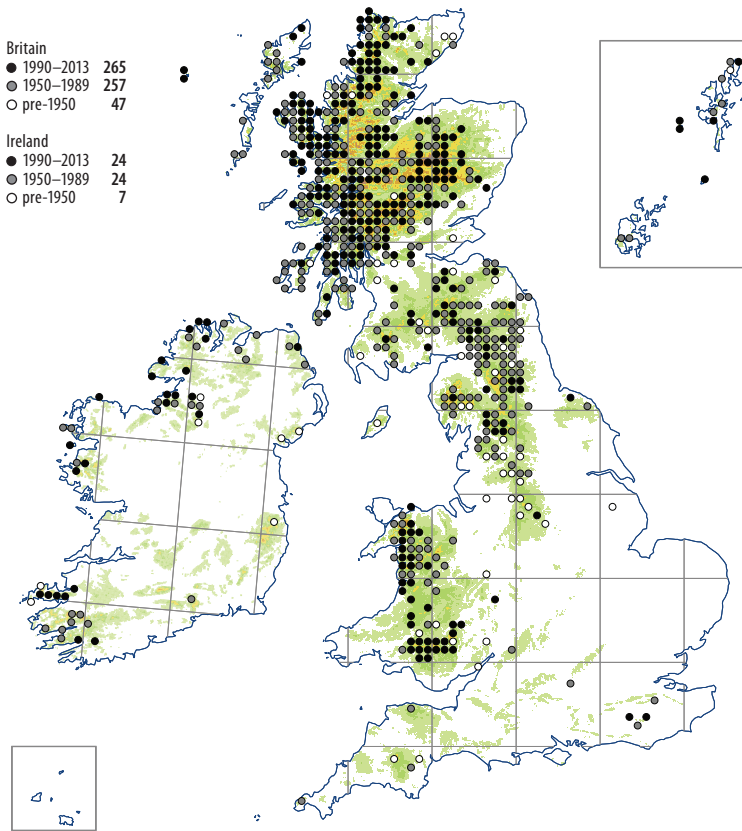


Blepharostoma trichophyllum



Seldom present in pure tufts, *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* is usually found creeping amongst other bryophytes in a variety of communities, on acid and base-rich substrates. It is most frequent on sheltered rock walls and ledges amongst crags and in ravines, with associates such as *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Anoetangium aestivum* and *Gymnostomum aeruginosum*, but it also occurs in flushes, by streams and on peaty moorland banks. In deciduous woodland it grows on tree bases, logs and within cushions of large ground-layer mosses, notably *Leucobryum* species. Altitudinal range: 10–1160 m.

The high proportion of pre-1950 records suggests that the species is in long-term decline and this has continued since the mid-1980s in both lowland and upland regions. The reason is unclear; it is possible that this relates in part

to the small size of the species, making it easy to overlook, but its recent rarity in relatively well-recorded areas such as Yorkshire suggests that the decline may be genuine. In Germany it has also been lost from many of its low-altitude sites (Meinunger & Schröder, 2007).

Autoicous or paroicous; sporophytes are occasional, April to October. Gemmae are frequent, but rather infrequently recorded.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Northern and montane in Europe, Asia and N America, extending southwards to mountain ranges in equatorial regions.

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