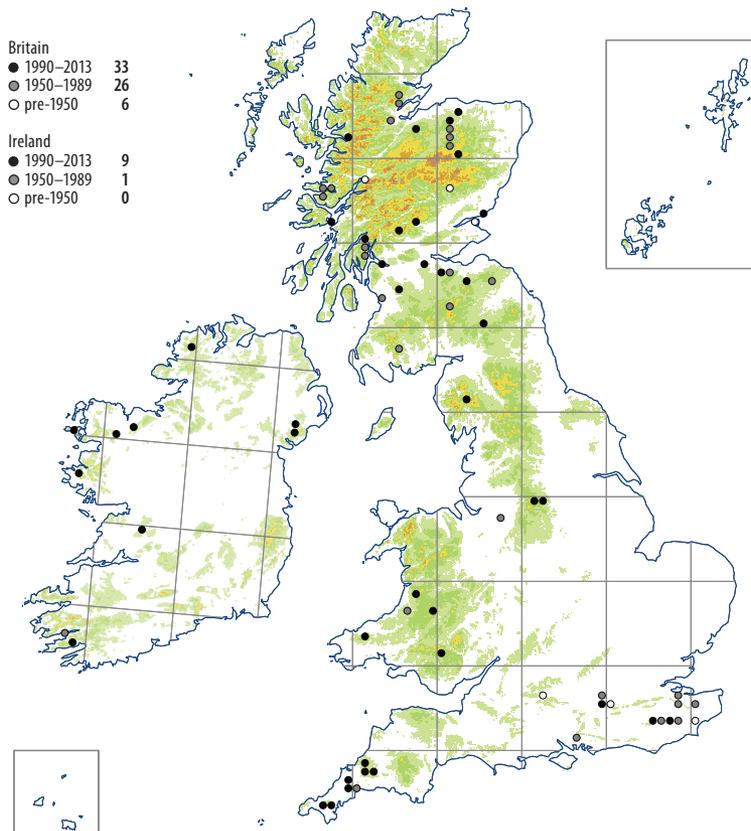


Atrichum tenellum



A sporadic colonist of bare moist non-calcareous ground, occurring on sand, gravel, clay and peaty mud. Most occurrences are in habitats recently disturbed by human activity. They include tracksides, poached ground in rough pastures and gateways, ditch and stream banks, lake and pond margins, and the floor of disused pits and quarries. Many records are from exposed ground in the upper part of the draw-down zone by reservoirs, where it occurs in open, sparse vegetation with *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Pohlia bulbifera*, *P. camptotrachela*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and other pioneer species. By one Pennine reservoir it was found intermixed with *Atrichum crispum* in extensive sheets. In SE England it occurs on woodland rides, where colonies may be more persistent, and where it has been recorded with *A. angustatum* (Rose, 1975b). Altitudinal range: 5–460 m.

There has been an increasing if somewhat sporadic trend in records, and the species may be spreading on reservoir margins.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare. Arts (1987) found that rhizoidal tubers were abundant and regularly present in Belgian specimens, surviving for up to 20 months in herbarium packets; they have been searched for unsuccessfully in British material, but were found in an Irish specimen from the Ox Mountains, Co. Sligo in 2012.

In vegetative condition *A. tenellum* can be difficult to separate from small forms of *A. undulatum*, and there may be some errors on the map.

Circumpolar Boreal-temperate. N, C and E Europe, from Iceland and N Fennoscandia south to France, N Italy and Bulgaria. Macaronesia (Azores). Turkey, Siberia, Japan. Western and eastern N America.

M.O. Hill, rev. T.L. Blockeel

