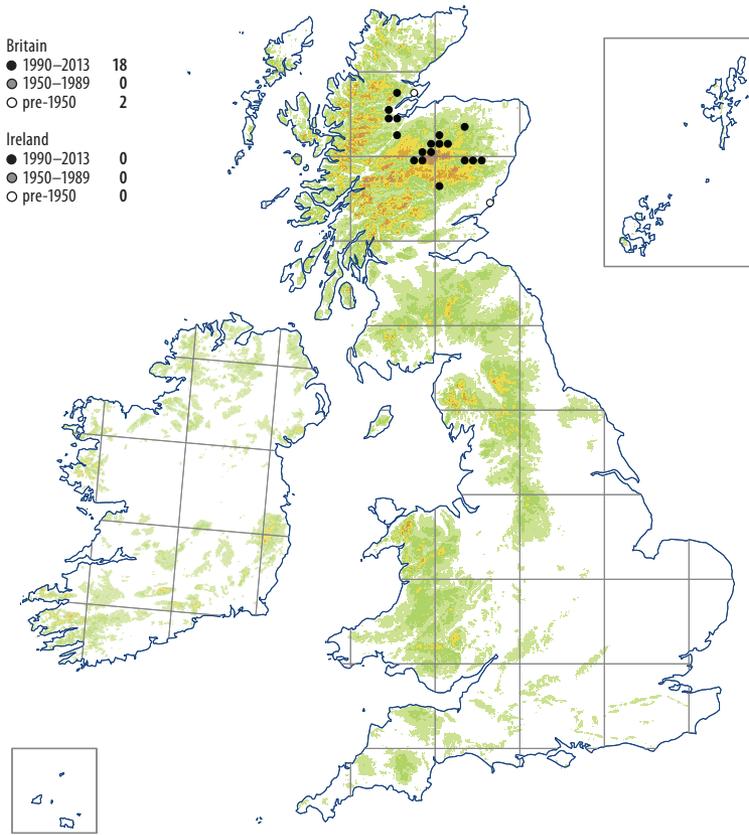


# Buxbaumia viridis



The main habitat for this species is on rotten wood, where it occurs with a range of common species including *Lepidozia reptans*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Lophozia ventricosa*, *Nowellia curvifolia*, *Riccardia palmata*, *Tritomaria exsectiformis*, *Dicranum fuscescens*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pohlia nutans*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Tetraphis pellucida* and *Cladonia* spp. For many years it was regarded as a species of pine logs and stumps but it has now been recorded from wood from a variety of coniferous and broadleaved trees, including juniper and the root section of a fallen oak (Taylor, 2012), as well as from old ants' nests and organic soil and, rarely, from the bark of living trees (Taylor, 2010). *Buxbaumia viridis* is usually found in shaded and humid sites within woodland, often, but not exclusively, near watercourses. Altitudinal range: 140–350 m.

Targeted survey work during the last 15 years has markedly increased the number of known sites for this species in Britain, as well as knowledge of its ecology. However it is unlikely that there has been any real change in the status of the species in the field, though the current, more enlightened forestry practice with regard to dead wood will lead to an increase in available habitat in the future.

Dioicous. Capsules mature in early summer. The gametophyte, particularly the male, is much reduced in size, so that this moss is invariably recorded only when capsules are present. It is not known whether the protonema is persistent and continually produces gametophytes and capsules. If so, the plant may be more widespread than records of capsule-bearing plants suggest.

Confusion is possible with *B. aphylla* but it is unlikely that there are any errors in the mapped distribution.

European Boreal-montane. Much of Europe from northern Fennoscandia and NW Russia south to the mountains of the northern Mediterranean region. Turkey, Caucasus, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Western N America.

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