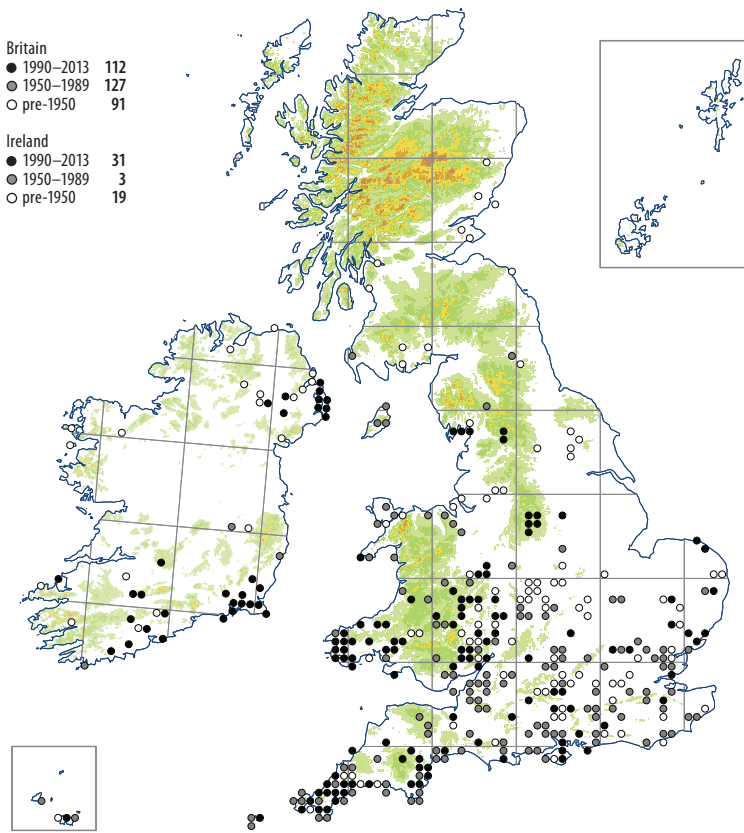


# Entosthodon fascicularis



In semi-natural habitats this species grows occasionally on thin soil in open places on ledges and outcrops of rocks and boulders, usually on calcareous strata, in similar habitats to *Entosthodon muhlenbergii* and sometimes growing with it, as well as with *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, *Encalypta vulgaris*, *Tortula* spp. and *Weissia* spp. Elsewhere it is recorded from bare ground in coastal turf, but is more commonly found on disturbed mildly acid to slightly basic soil in stubble fields and grass leys, on road verges, paths, and soil banks, and even on disturbed ground associated with forestry and tree-planting. In these places it is associated with other ruderal species, such as *Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella staphylinia* and *Tortula truncata*. Altitudinal range: 0–250 m.

It appears to have declined in many areas, perhaps because of more intensive cultivation of arable fields, and especially

winter sowing. However the extent of its decline is difficult to gauge because occurrences on disturbed ground are often temporary and it is easily overlooked before capsules are developed. The overall trend in records has been upward since the 1980s; this has been due in part to increased recording in arable habitats during the BBS survey of arable land, but longer-term losses in cultivated land have probably been offset by increased numbers of records from semi-natural habitats.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature from late winter to early summer.

It is very similar to *Physcomitrium pyriforme*, but most bryologists are aware of this source of confusion and it is unlikely to have caused many errors. Very few records from northern and eastern areas have been revised in the light of the recent discovery of *E. mouretii* in Britain, and it is possible that some of them may belong to the latter species.

European Temperate. Europe north to southern Scandinavia, SW Finland, the Baltic States and Belarus. Macaronesia and N Africa. Turkey and SW Asia (including Arabia) to the eastern Caucasus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. Western N America.

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