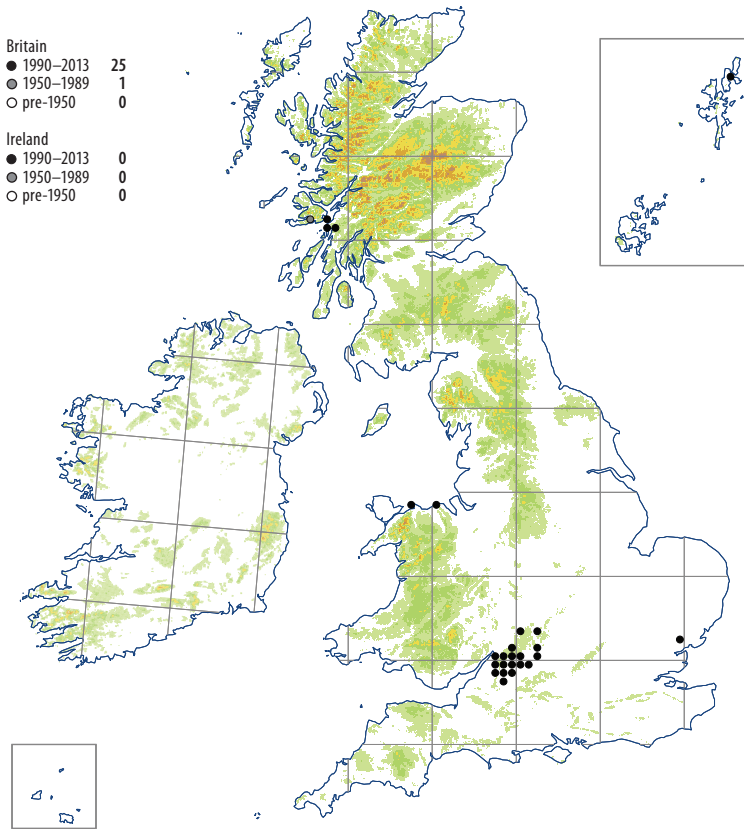


Grimmia tergestina



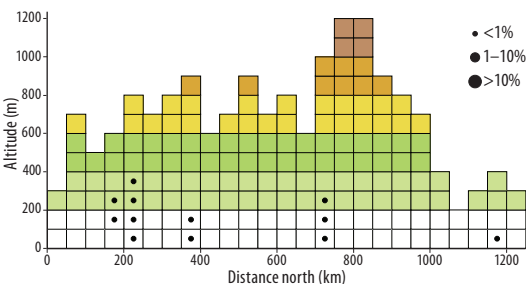
This is a cushion- or tuft-forming species of dry, sunny igneous and calcareous rocks and stonework. In Scotland it occurs on cliffs and crags with a south or south-west aspect on base-rich strata, including basalt and andesite, sometimes on thin soil overlying the rock and often by the coast, growing with *Frullania tamarisci*, *Tortella tortuosa*, *Rhytidium rugosum* and *Zygodon rupestris*. On Fetlar, Shetland Isles, there is a single recorded occurrence on a concrete wall in 2008. In N Wales it grows on south-facing Carboniferous Limestone cliffs, slabs and rock outcrops, close to colonies of *Grimmia orbicularis*. In southern England it is confined to calcareous stonework, and is particularly characteristic of hard Cotswold limestone roof tiles (Martin, 2007) but it also occurs in churchyards on tombstones of Oolitic Limestone, and on walls and church buttresses with S to SW aspects. Associates include *G. pulvinata*, *Schistidium crassipilum*,

Syntrichia montana and *Tortula muralis*. Altitudinal range: 10–230 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring.

Grimmia tergestina was only recently added to the British list (Greven, 1994) from a Scottish collection gathered in 1966. The detection of this species and the distribution of the sexes in northern Europe have given rise to the hypothesis that it is expanding its range (Greven, 1991); its late discovery in 2003 at Great Orme's Head in N Wales, a bryologically well-worked locality, does support this supposition, possibly in response to climate change (Martin & Greven, 2007).

Eurasian Southern-temperate. A thermophilous species, in Europe in many Mediterranean countries and extending north to southern Sweden. Macaronesia (possibly on Tenerife), N Africa (Algeria, Morocco). SW Asia. Elsewhere its distribution is obscured by varying treatments of related taxa such as *G. crassifolia* Lindb. ex Broth. and *G. plagiopoda* Hedw., but may extend to C and E Asia, N and S America, the Caribbean (Dominican Republic) and E Africa (Tanzania).



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