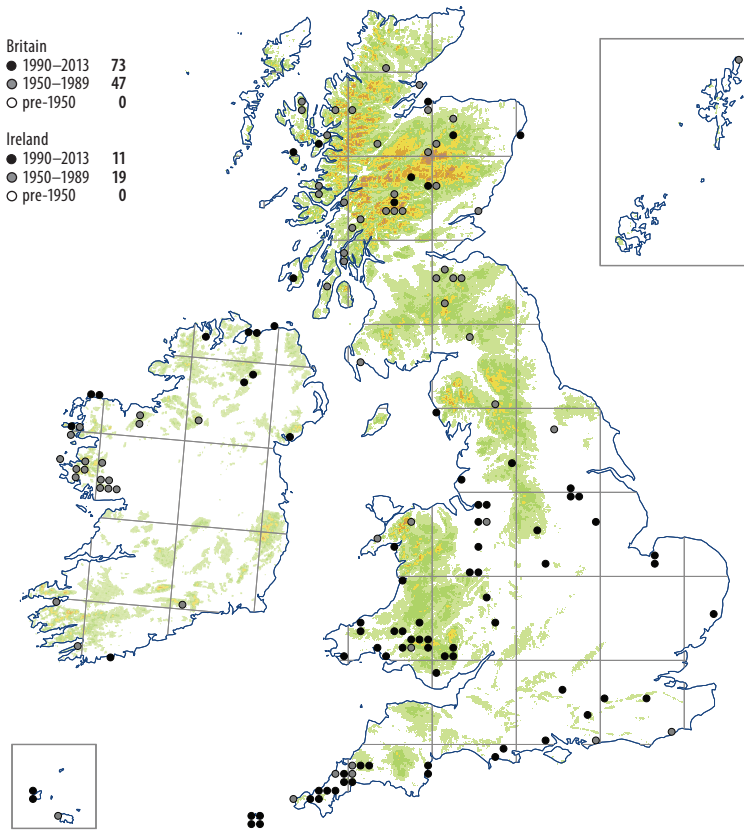


Fossombronia incurva



Found as scattered plants or in small patches on sparsely vegetated soil or in low bryophyte turf in a wide range of habitats where competition is low, including roadsides, lay-bys, tracks and paths, disused railway lines, the edges of lakes and reservoirs, streamsides, dune slacks, gravel pits and the floors of disused quarries. Most often found on moist or flushed, sandy, shaly or gravelly soil, but also recorded from clay, china clay and peaty soil. Associates include *Fossombronia fimbriata*, *F. wondraczekii*, *Haplomitrium hookeri*, *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *R. incurvata*, *Archidium alternifolium* and bulbiferous species of *Pohlia*. Altitudinal range: 5–460 m.

It was overlooked by British and Irish bryologists until 1964, and new sites continue to be discovered. It is doubtful that the apparent increase is anything other than the result of

greater awareness of the need to check small *Fossombronia* carefully.

Dioicous. Sporophytes are frequent, recorded from March to November (Paton, 1999).

Under-recorded when not fruiting, although it is sometimes possible to demonstrate that male and female plants of this dioicous species grow separately. Some British plants show characteristics of the German species *F. fleischeri* Osterwald (Bosanquet *et al.*, 2005; Schumacker & Váňa, 2005), but the separation of this from *F. incurva* has not been fully investigated in Britain.

Suboceanic Temperate. France and Spain north-eastwards to Finland and Russia, and eastwards to Austria.

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