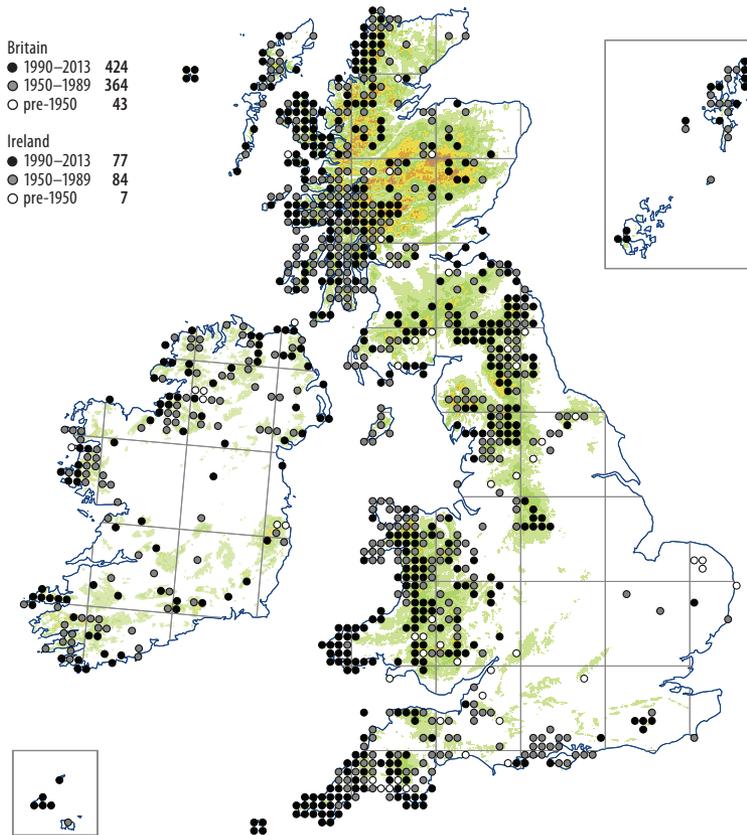


Campylopus fragilis

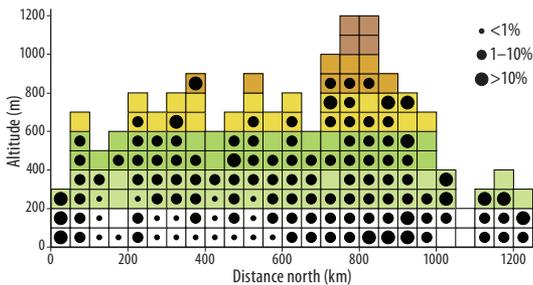


Common in many coastal habitats, including rocky slopes and ledges, cliff tops and coastal heath, growing on rather acid humus or mineral soil, and tolerant of salt spray. It often occurs with *Hypnum jutlandicum*, along with occasional associates such as *Frullania tamarisci* and *Scapania compacta*. Non-coastal habitats are varied, but inland it has a greater tendency to occur on somewhat basic substrates, often in small quantity, for example in exposed or shaded rock crevices, on ravine sides and on rocky banks. In the Pennines its most characteristic habitat is on deep humus on limestone rock ledges. Other substrates include walls and hedgebanks, old quarries, peaty humus in woodlands, and occasionally rotten wood and tree boles. It has been reported from some inland heaths but this is not a typical habitat, and *Campylopus fragilis* is not a common peatland species. Altitudinal range: 0–800 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in summer. Vegetative propagation is by deciduous leaves, which may be produced in abundance at the shoot tips. Tubers have been found in an Irish specimen and are probably frequent (Arts, 1989b).

It was widely misunderstood in the past and is still sometimes confused with *C. pyriformis* and *C. flexuosus*. Many old records from central and eastern areas have proved to be erroneous, and doubtless some errors still remain.

Suboceanic Temperate. W and C Europe, from S Portugal north to SW Norway, east to Ukraine and Caucasus, absent from most of the Mediterranean area (reaching Corsica and Sardinia). Macaronesia. Turkey. Himalaya, E Asia, Japan. N America (rare, British Columbia and Arkansas), C and S America (Andes). E and S Africa. Australia.



T.L. Blockeel