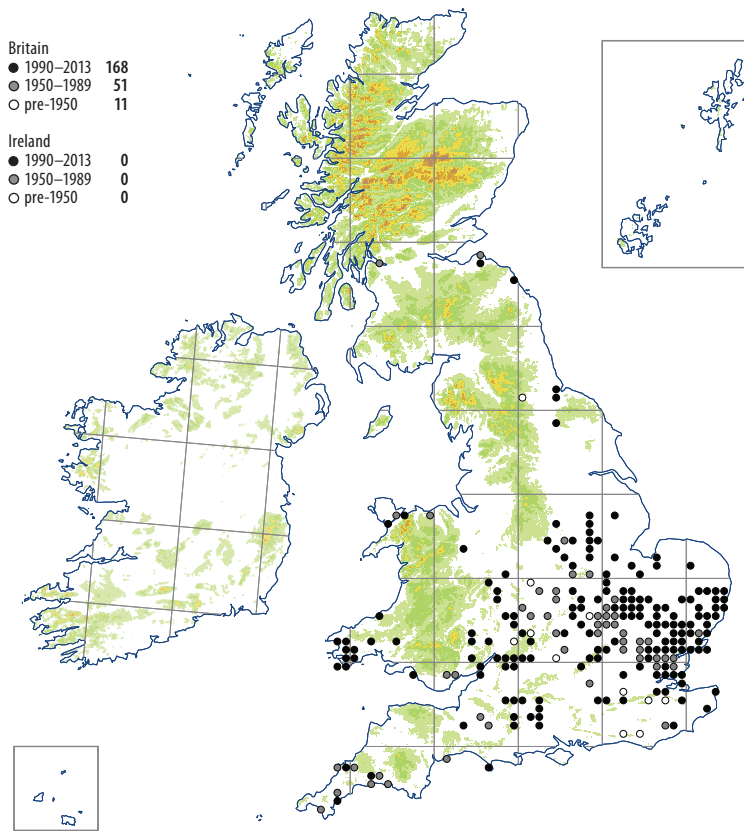


## Weissia longifolia var. longifolia



A moss of bare open habitats on non-calcareous loamy and sandy soil, in places that are not constantly disturbed. It is probably most common in arable fields, especially those remaining unploughed into the winter, though shoots may survive around the edges of fields even after ploughing. It has also been recorded from a wide range of other open habitats, including banks, ditches, pastures, coastal slopes, pathsides, flower beds and road verges. A number of records are from disturbed soil in churchyards and cemeteries. Altitudinal range: 0–250 m.

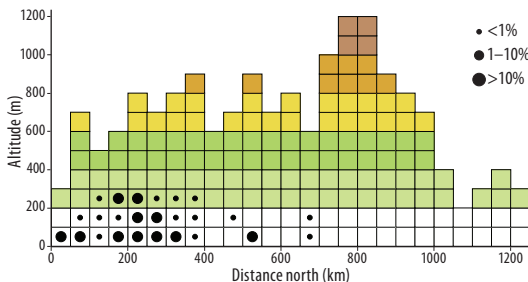
Because capsules mature late in the season, it is vulnerable to early ploughing in arable fields. The increase in records since the 1991–1994 Atlas does not represent an actual increase in frequency, since var. *longifolia* had only recently been recognised at that time. However the BBS

survey of arable fields generated a good number of new records.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature in winter and spring.

Var. *longifolia* was distinguished from var. *angustifolia* by Crundwell & Nyholm (1972a). Some specimens are intermediate, and there may be a few inconsistencies in recording.

European Temperate. As a species, *Weissia longifolia* is widespread in Europe, north to C Norway and NW Russia, east to the Caucasus and Ural mountains. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and Israel, Iran to S Siberia, Japan. Var. *longifolia* probably occurs through most of this range but it has not been differentiated from var. *angustifolia* in many territories.



T.L. Blockeel