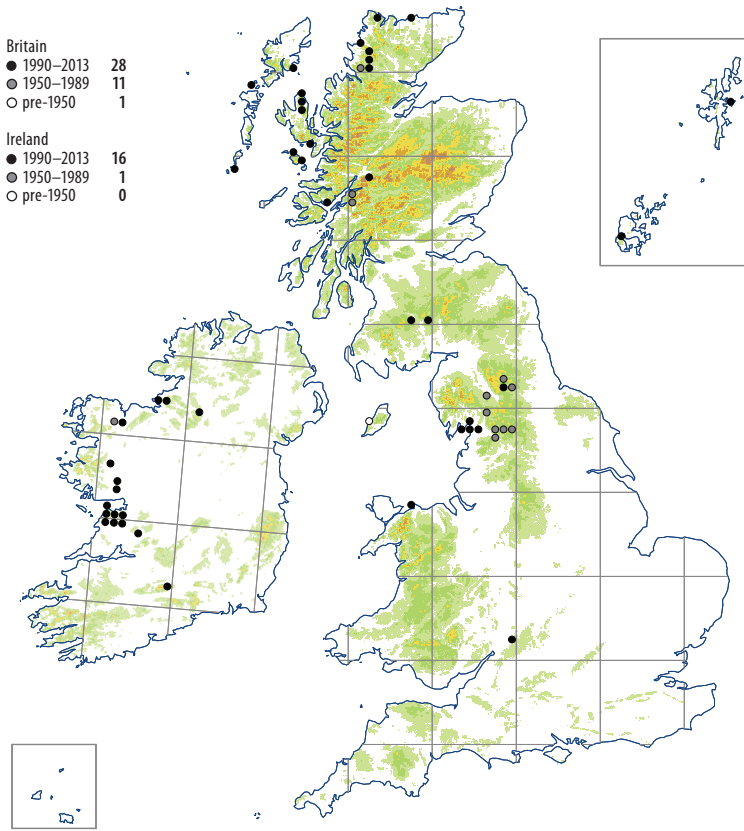


# Tortella densa



A rather rare species growing in the crevices of limestone rocks and on limestone pavement, more rarely on bare soil among rocks and in grassy flushes. It is a strong calcicole occurring especially on Carboniferous Limestone in N England and W Ireland, on sugar limestone in Upper Teesdale and Fucoïd beds in NW Scotland. Most stations are at moderate altitudes on exposed ground, though there are some records from light woodland. Its Scottish habitats are more varied, and include coastal rocks, damp coastal sand, and stones in base-rich flushes. It has also been found on heavy-metal mine waste in NW England. Altitudinal range: 0–690 m.

*Tortella densa* was under-recorded when the 1991–1994 Atlas was published and many new sites have been added since then, especially in Scotland and Ireland. It is locally frequent at some localities, e.g. the Burren.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown.

There may be some errors on the map, as *T. densa* is occasionally confused with forms of *T. tortuosa* that have elongate cells partially exposed on the ventral surface of the nerve. It is thought to be more closely related to *T. inclinata* than to *T. tortuosa*, and it is treated as a variety of *T. inclinata* in some recent floras and checklists.

Suboceanic Temperate. N, W and C Europe, extending north to S Sweden and C Norway, east to the Tatra mountains, rare in S Europe, to Spain and the Balkan Peninsula. Turkey, Caucasus, and reported from Nepal. Northern N America, apparently rare.

T.L. Blockeel

