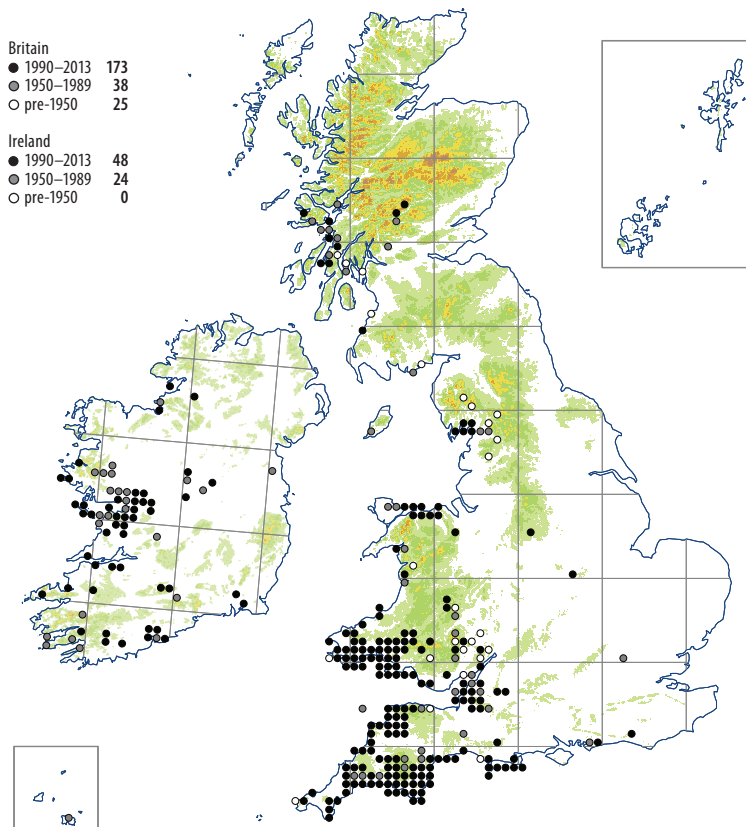


Tortella nitida



Typically forming rounded tufts or cushions, this species occurs most commonly on wall mortar and old wall tops, especially those of limestone and other base-rich materials, including concrete, and often associated with *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Rhynchostegiella tenella*, *Tortula muralis* and *Trichostomum crispulum*. It is frequent on town and village walls as well as those in more rural areas, and is plentiful in some churchyards. It is less common on natural rock, and then usually in open places with a sunny aspect, occasionally in light shade, primarily on limestone outcrops and pavement, but also on sandstone and other basic rock types. *Syntrichia montana* and *Tortella tortuosa* are sometimes associated with it on limestone outcrops. Altitudinal range: 0–930 m.

reflects periods of systematic recording in SW England and S Wales.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain. Vegetative propagation occurs by means of the fragile deciduous leaf apices.

This species is occasionally confused with forms of *T. tortuosa* and *T. bambergi* and there may be a few erroneous records.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Common in S Europe, north to Belgium, Switzerland and Slovenia. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, Caucasus, Kazakhstan. Socotra, Sudan.

Overall, there has been a continuing upward, if somewhat fluctuating, trend in records since the 1960s. This probably

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