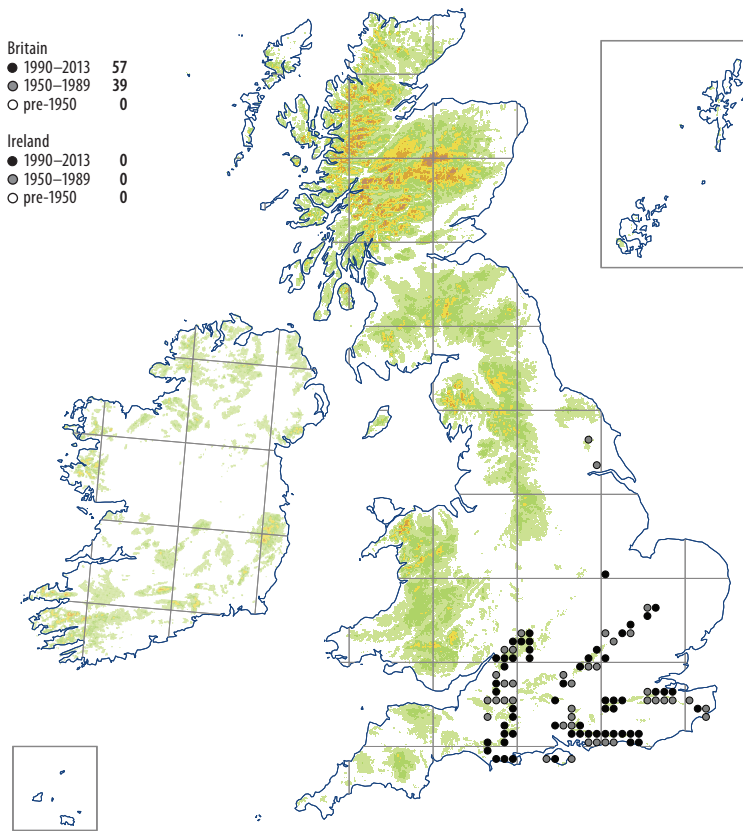


Tortella inflexa



Strictly confined to chalk and soft Oolitic Limestone, this species nearly always occurs on pebbles and detached fragments of rock, but sometimes also on larger stones. It may occur in pure patches, often covering the whole upper surface of small pebbles, or may be mixed with *Fissidens gracilifolius*, *Rhynchostegiella tenella* and *Seligeria calycina*. It has been found in woodland (including beech and yew), on scrubby banks, in chalk and limestone grassland, old chalk pits, shaded paths, and very occasionally in stubble fields. Altitudinal range: 40–250 m.

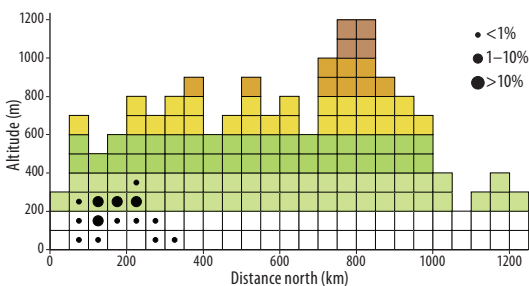
Dioicous; capsules are very rare.

An inconspicuous species, not recognised in Britain until 1957, although the earliest herbarium specimen dates from 1904. There is no reason to doubt its native status or to

assume that it increased in the mid 20th century: it is more likely that it was overlooked previously. Indeed there was a dip in the records in the 1970s and 1980s, but there has been a slight upward trend since then.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Common in S Europe, reaching its northern limit in Britain, otherwise north to the Netherlands, Belgium and Slovenia. Canary Islands, N Africa. Cyprus, Turkey, Near East, Yemen, Afghanistan, also listed for Japan by Iwatsuki (2004).

T.L. Blockeel



▼ Folkestone undercliff, East Kent, 2014. Joanne Denyer

