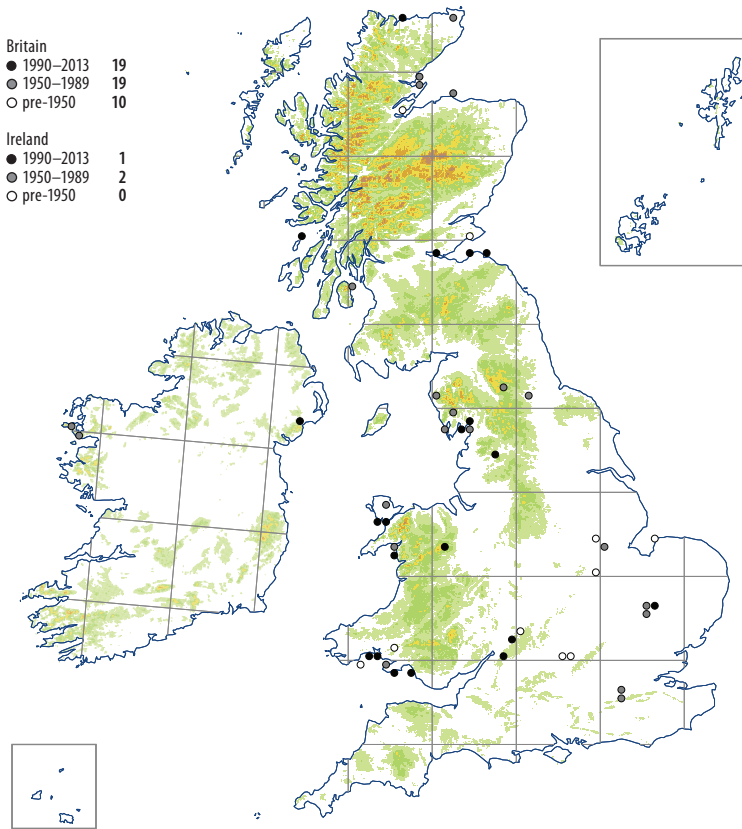


Tortella inclinata



In maritime districts this species grows among low herbs and bare ground in calcareous dune slacks and in calcareous dune grassland, where *Ditrichum gracile* is a recorded associate; in eastern Scotland it is recorded from coastal basalt rocks. At its site in NE Ireland it occurs on sandy gravel and shingle in apparently acid dune-heath. Away from the coast it occurs on thin soil on calcareous rocks (Carboniferous, Oolitic and sugar limestone), and in open turf, bare stony ground or scree in long-established chalk and limestone grassland. It has also been found in old limestone quarries and stone pits. Associates in such sites may include *Ditrichum gracile*, *Entodon concinnus*, *Homalothecium lutescens* and *Trichostomum crispulum*. Altitudinal range: 0–150 m.

It has been lost from some inland sites because of scrub encroachment, quarrying and the loss of unimproved calcareous grassland.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, recorded in 1960 near Gullane in SE Scotland. Gemmae are unknown, but short deciduous shoots are sometimes present.

It is similar to *Tortella flavovirens* and may be confused with it, but there are unlikely to be many errors on the map.

Circumpolar Temperate. Most of Europe to N Norway, east to the Ural mountains and Caucasus, but rather rare in the Mediterranean region. N Africa? (reported from Egypt). Turkey, Israel, Arabian Peninsula, scattered in N and C Asia. Northern N America, south to Ohio.

T.L. Blockeel

