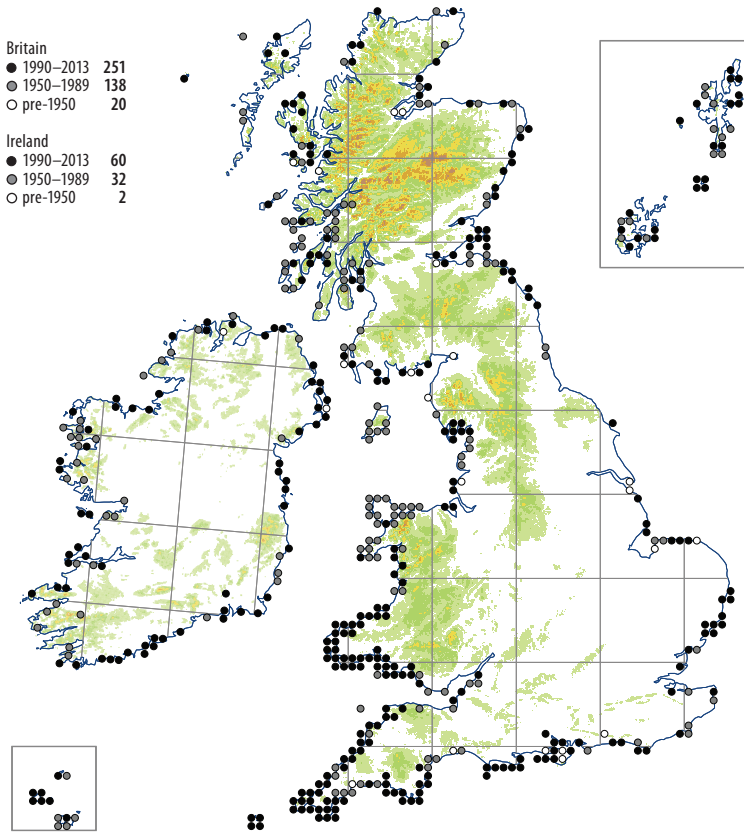


Tortella flavovirens



An exclusively maritime species in Britain and Ireland, common in short dune grassland and on blown sand on coastal slopes, sometimes with *Syntrichia ruralis* var. *ruraliformis* and *Rhynchostegium megapolitanum*. It is equally widespread on thin soil and in soil pockets and crevices among rocks, in bare areas on rocky sea cliffs and banks, on shingle, and sometimes also on walls and wall tops and on Cornish hedges. On western coasts it occurs frequently with or close to *Schistidium maritimum* on rocks regularly splashed by salt spray. Other associates include *Didymodon tophaceus* and *Trichostomum brachydontium*, and in the south-west *Tortula viridifolia*. It is occasionally found in damp turf in and near the upper saltmarsh zone. Altitudinal range: 0-130 m.

Var. *glareicola* was formerly recognised on the basis of its larger leaf cells, but it does not differ ecologically from var. *flavovirens* and intermediates have proved to be frequent. It is no longer treated as distinct.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. In Europe extending north to S Scandinavia and Poland, common in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Near East, Caucasus, Iran. South-eastern N America. Reported from W Australia; New Zealand.

T.L. Blockeel

Dioicous; capsules are very rare.

