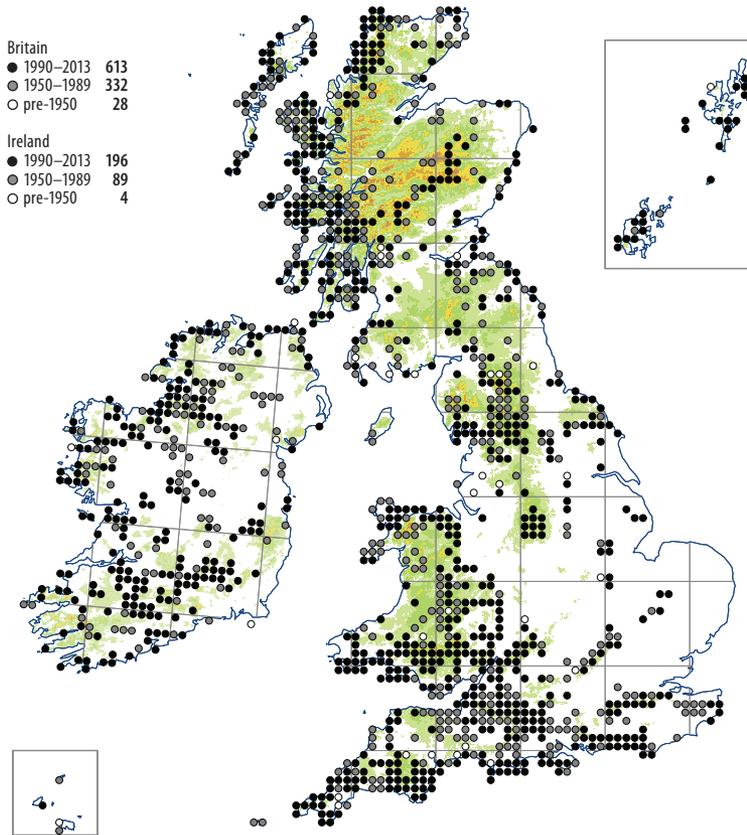


Trichostomum crispulum

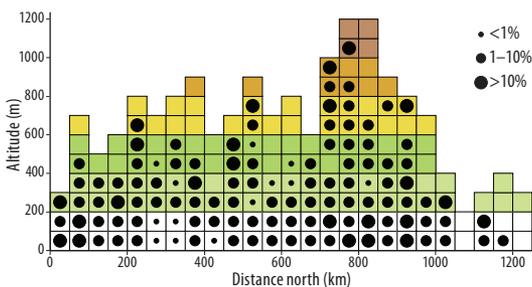


A common species of base-rich rocks. One of its characteristic natural habitats is in crevices and on ledges of limestone outcrops, often with *Fissidens dubius*, both on exposed crags and in light shade, but it is also known on a wide range of other rock types that are at least slightly basic. Equally it is widespread in base-rich turf, both on the coast on calcareous dunes and blown sand, and inland in chalk and limestone grassland with *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* and *Weissia brachycarpa* var. *obliqua*. It is a common colonist of old quarries and mine workings, on stony ground and spoil, and even on alkaline industrial waste, and in such places is sometimes associated with *Ditrichum gracile*. It colonises old walls and wall mortar, and is locally plentiful on tracks and forest roads surfaced with limestone rubble, where it may extend into otherwise acid environments. It has been recorded on clay

in light woodland. Although frequently in dry habitats it is sometimes found on moist rocks in gullies and on stream banks. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring.

Morphologically (and presumably genetically) a very variable species, but it is poorly understood and it has not yet been subject to detailed molecular analysis. The varieties formerly recognised in Britain and Ireland are not currently recorded separately. One of the most distinctive is a narrow-leaved form, sometimes recognised as a distinct species (*Trichostomum viridulum* Bruch). It is recorded from a few localities in our islands, and is frequent in parts of C and S Europe. It is a pioneer moss of earth on steep banks and among rocks.



Circumpolar Southern-temperate. S, W and C Europe; rare northwards with scattered localities in Scandinavia, but recorded in the high Arctic in Svalbard. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia, including Arabian Peninsula. As a broadly defined species, *T. crispulum* is widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, across northern and temperate Asia but apparently rare in N America. C America. NE and C Africa, Réunion, St Helena. Australia (Northern Territory).

T.L. Blockeel