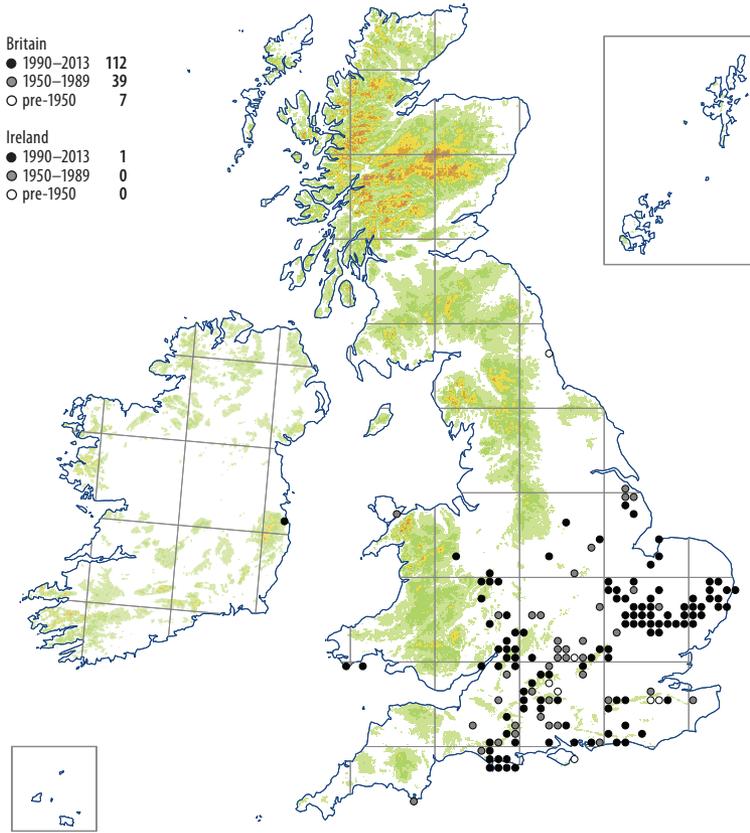


# *Ephemerum recurvifolium*



An ephemeral moss growing on bare patches of calcareous clay and other moist soils over chalk and various forms of limestone (Oolitic, Carboniferous and Magnesian). Many sites are in unimproved herb-rich grassland where soil is exposed in thin turf, about stones, on ant-hills or on steep banks, but it has also been recorded on trampled soil by paths, on woodland rides, on bare soil in woodland (particularly beech woods), on undercliffs, and as a temporary colonist of roadsides and recently disturbed ground. It is also an occasional component of the flora of arable fields on chalky and basic clay soils, especially in eastern districts. At its recently discovered Irish locality it occurred in sparse vegetation on a sloping laneside bank. It is often associated with other small calcicolous bryophytes, including *Dicranella varia*, *Fissidens viridulus*, *Microbryum davallianum* and *M. rectum*, and in

arable fields *Barbula* spp. and *Bryum klinggraeffii*. Altitudinal range: 0–270 m.

There was a surge in records during the BBS survey of arable fields, but this is not evidence of significant change.

Pseudodioicous; capsules are usually abundant, though occasionally absent, mature in late summer, autumn and winter. Irregularly shaped tubers occur on the underground filament system (Pressel *et al.*, 2005), but unlike those found in some of the species inhabiting periodically submerged habitats they are starch-filled and regenerate rapidly; they are evidently not adapted for longer-term perennation.

European Southern-temperate. In Europe from southern Scandinavia and Poland southwards to the Mediterranean region and east to Ukraine. N Africa. Turkey, Israel. Also reported from Australia.

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