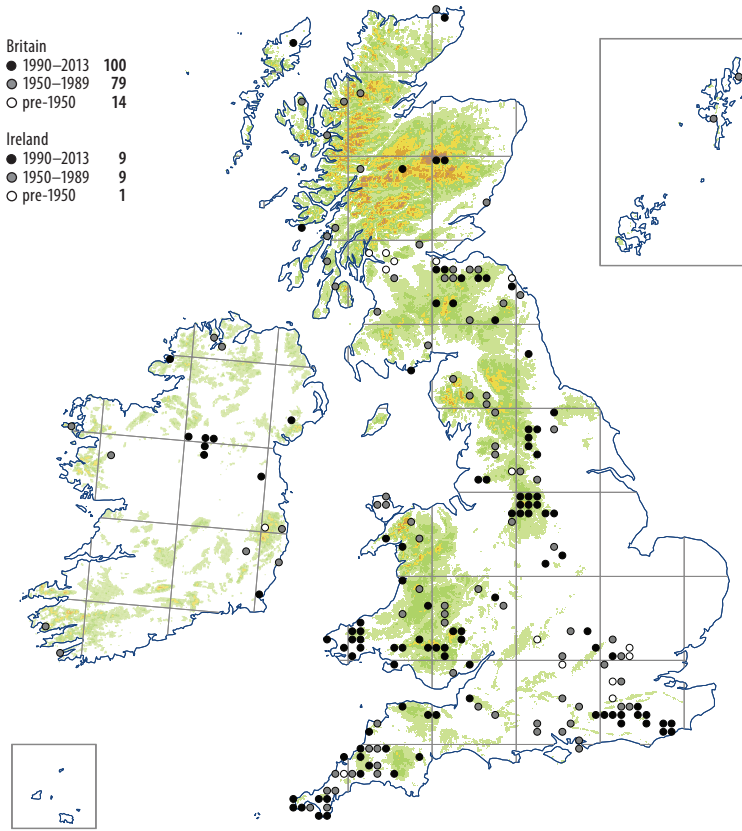


# Ephemerum serratum



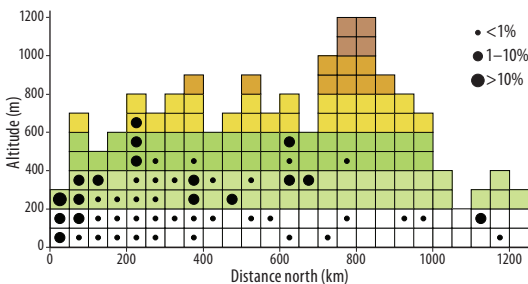
An ephemeral moss of moist non-calcareous soils, being especially characteristic of semi-vegetated mud exposed on margins of reservoirs, often where there is some mixture of sand and/or peat. In such places it may be associated with *Fossombronia* spp., *Archidium alternifolium*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and bulbiferous species of *Pohlia*, occasionally also with *Ephemerum sessile*. Elsewhere it occurs in similar habitats to *E. minutissimum*, in arable fields, cattle-poached pasture, bare patches of soil in grassland, including ant-hills and old mole-hills, the margins of pools in old pits, bare ground by woodland rides, soil on stream banks, moist roadsides and lane banks, and churchyards. Altitudinal range: 10–540 m.

Pseudodioicous; capsules are abundant, usually mature in late summer through to early winter, but occasionally at other times of the year. The underground tubers known from some other species of *Ephemerum* (Pressel *et al.*, 2005) apparently do not occur in *E. serratum*.

Only records of *E. serratum* s.s. are mapped. These may contain some errors, as specimens with immature spores can be confused with *E. minutissimum*. *E. stellatum* has been treated as a separate species in the past but is now regarded as a form of *E. serratum* (Holyoak, 2010b) and it is not mapped separately.

There was a large increase in records between 1990 and 2012 but this can be attributed to targeted surveys of reservoirs rather than a genuine change in occurrence.

European Temperate. The wider distribution of *E. serratum* s.s. is uncertain because it has not often been clearly differentiated from *E. minutissimum*. In the aggregate sense it occurs widely in Europe from Iceland and C Scandinavia southwards, east to European Russia, but rare in the Mediterranean region. Madeira, N Africa. Turkey, Israel, Japan. Widespread in N America. New Zealand.



T.L. Blockeel