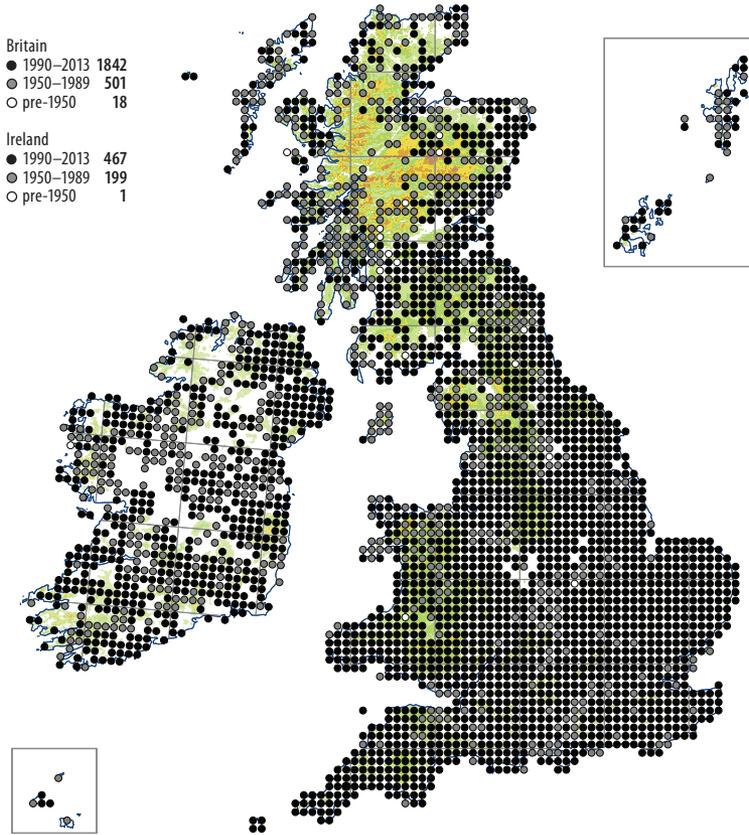


Barbula convoluta

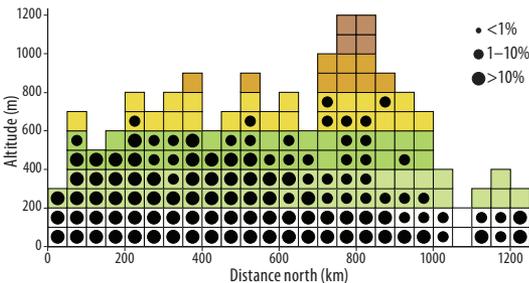


A very common species of bare or disturbed neutral to base-rich soil in open places. It occurs on paths and waste ground, among rubble and chippings, at the edge of roads and between paving stone, in gardens, pastures and arable fields, in old pits and quarries, in chalk and limestone grassland, on cliff tops, dune flats and coastal turf, in soil-filled crevices on walls and rock outcrops, and on earth-covered rock ledges. It may also occur directly on crumbling wall mortar and soft rock. It is primarily a lowland species but ascends to moderate altitudes in limestone districts and in man-made habitats. In ruderal habitats its associates include *Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum dichotomum*, *B. ruderale* and *Pseudocrossidium hornschuchianum* and a large range of other weedy species. On soil over base-rich rocks it also has numerous associates, and may occur in communities that include *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, *Riccia*

sorocarpa, *Tortula modica*, *T. lanceola* and *Entosthodon* spp.
Altitudinal range: 0–550 m.

Diocious; capsules are occasional, mature in spring and summer. Rhizoidal tubers are known to occur frequently but are apparently not constantly present.

Two varieties occur, var. *convoluta* and var. *sardoa*. The latter is often treated as a distinct species, *B. commutata*. The most luxuriant forms of var. *sardoa*, consisting of robust yellow-green plants with wavy leaves, appear very distinct from var. *convoluta*; they are characteristic of old walls and rock crevices, but also occur in ruderal habitats. However intermediate forms are very common, and occur in many habitats, including arable fields. Var. *sardoa* is widespread and frequent over most of Britain and Ireland, but it has not been recorded consistently and is therefore not mapped separately here.



Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Almost throughout Europe, but rare towards the Arctic and not reaching Iceland or Svalbard. Macaronesia, N Africa. Cyprus, Turkey, Near East. Widespread across the temperate Northern Hemisphere. C America. C and S Africa. Australia, New Zealand (possibly introduced).

T.L. Blockeel