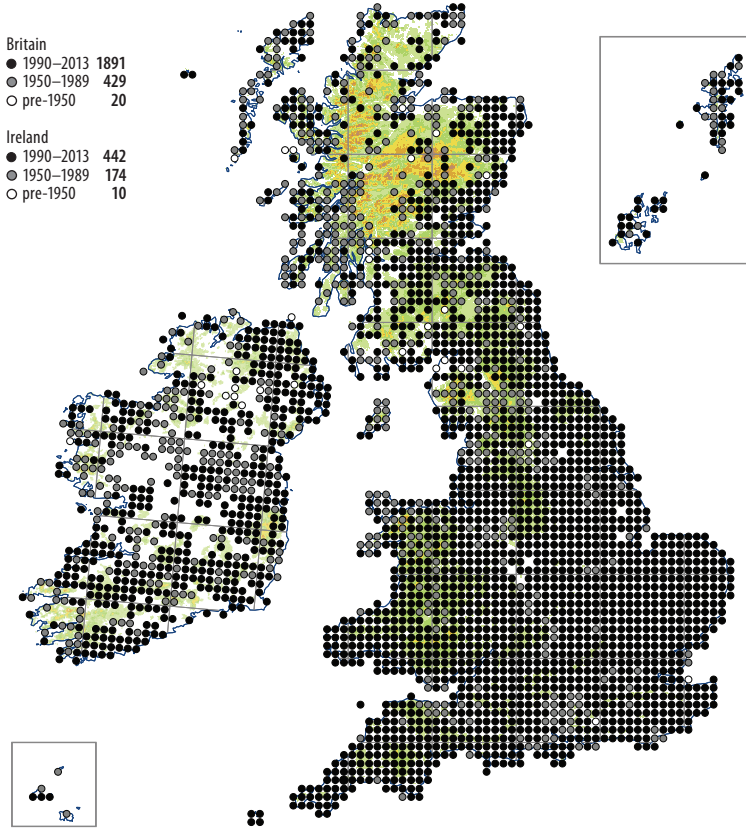


Barbula unguiculata



Often a ruderal species occurring plentifully on neutral to base-rich soil on roadsides, tracks, paths and waste ground, in gardens, quarries and other disturbed habitats, and in the crevices of old walls. It is common in arable fields and is a defining member of the *Barbula unguiculata*–*Bryum klinggraeffii* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from fields with basic soils. Like many other ruderal species, it penetrates into moorland and other inhospitable habitats along roads and tracks. It is certainly most abundant in man-made situations but occurs also in more natural habitats such as soil on stream banks, among calcareous rocks, on stony ground and earthy ledges, and on stable dunes. It is essentially a species of well-illuminated sites but may occur or persist in moderate shade, as by woodland tracks, provided the ground remains sufficiently bare. It often grows

with *Barbula convoluta* (and shares many associates with it). Altitudinal range: 0–525 m.

This ubiquitous lowland species is now much more completely recorded than in the 1991–1994 Atlas, and is absent only from some montane areas.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional to frequent, mature in winter and spring. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Almost throughout Europe and the Mediterranean region, north to Iceland and NW Norway. Macaronesia, N Africa. Cyprus, Turkey, Near East. Widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, especially the temperate zone. C America. Scattered records from C and S Africa. S America. Australia, New Zealand (possibly introduced).

T.L. Blockeel

