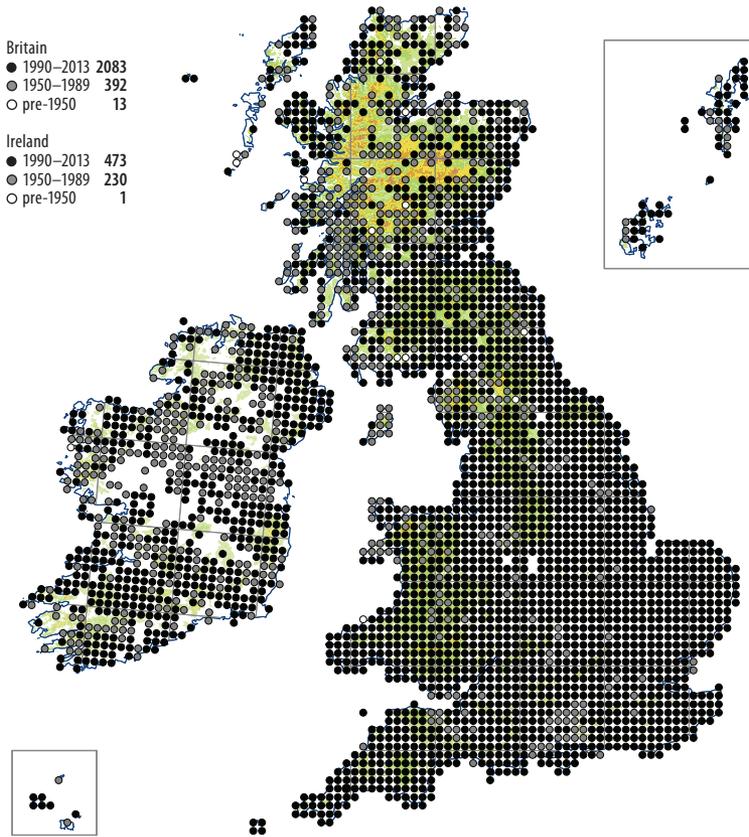


# Tortula muralis



An abundant species in all but the most sparsely populated parts of the country, occurring very commonly on brick and stone walls, roof tiles, bridges, concrete and many other man-made substrates. It is very common in cities, towns and villages, even in city centres and industrial areas. It occurs also on natural rocks, especially on outcrops of limestone and sandstone. It is less common away from roads on mountains and moorland, but even here colonises concrete posts and imported materials. More rarely it becomes established on wood, as on old fence-posts and railings, and as an epiphyte on trees, especially in regions with dry climates. Sometimes it grows with ruderal species on compacted soil. It is absent only from the most acid substrates. Sites are usually well illuminated or only lightly shaded, but it may persist in deep shade. It has a very wide range of associates, of which *Bryum capillare*, *Didymodon*

*rigidulus*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Homalothecium sericeum* and *Schistidium crassipilum* are among the most common. Altitudinal range: 0–590 m.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature in spring, summer and autumn. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture and in nature (Duckett *et al.*, 2004).

Var. *aestiva* is taxonomically controversial and it is not mapped separately here. Its status is perhaps obscured by shade forms of var. *muralis*, and it has certainly not been recorded consistently. Frahm (2010) considers it to be a good species.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Throughout Europe, except the north, reaching SW Iceland, C Scandinavia and NE European Russia. Widespread in temperate regions of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, but not in the Arctic and Antarctic and rare in tropical countries.

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