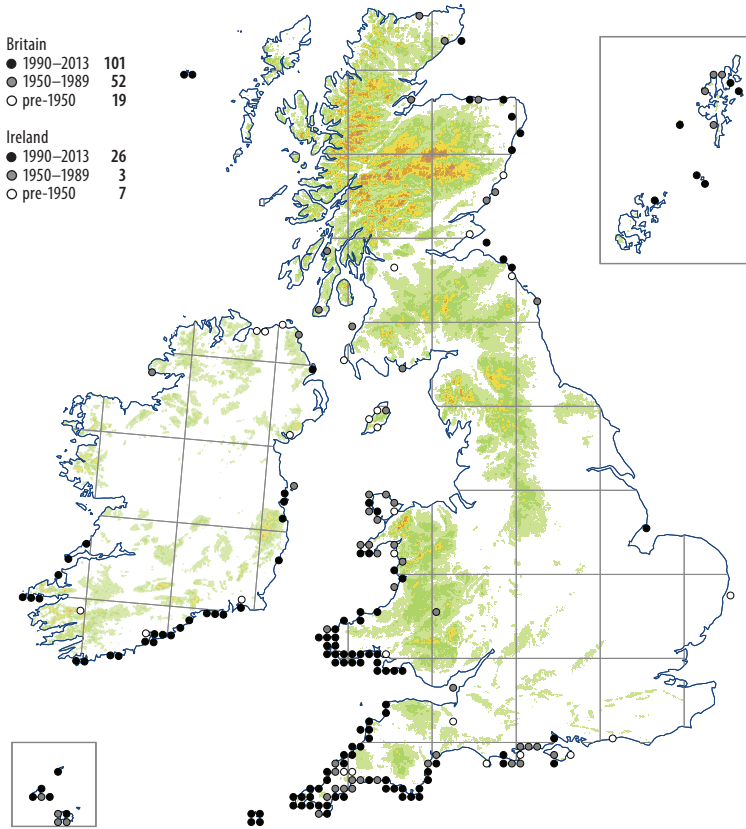


Tortula viridifolia



A frequent annual in open habitats (rarely in light shade) on exposed south-western coasts, growing on thin soil over rocky banks and cliffs, hedgebanks and streambanks, earthy crevices in rocks and Cornish hedges, sandy banks, trampled soil along paths and tracks and on ant-hills in coastal pasture. It occurs over a wide range of rock types including basalt, granite, limestone, sandstone, schist, serpentine and shale. Its habitat is similar to that of *Tortula atrovirens*, with which it often occurs. *Trichostomum brachydontium*, *Weissia controversa* and *W. perssonii* are among its other associates, and it is also grows with rare species such as *Tortula canescens*, *T. cuneifolia* and *T. wilsonii*. It was, surprisingly, discovered inland on an old railway near Bulth Wells in 1985. Altitudinal range: 0–85 m.

Records have increased since 1990, but this is due to targeted and systematic recording in the south-west of Britain and the south of Ireland. There has probably been some decline from the loss of open coastal habitats, but it has suffered much less in this respect than *T. wilsonii*.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in winter and spring. Rhizoidal tubers are apparently absent (Arts, 1987b).

Mediterranean-Atlantic. SW and S Europe, east to Greece, extending north along the Atlantic seaboard to Britain. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Jordan, Iran.

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