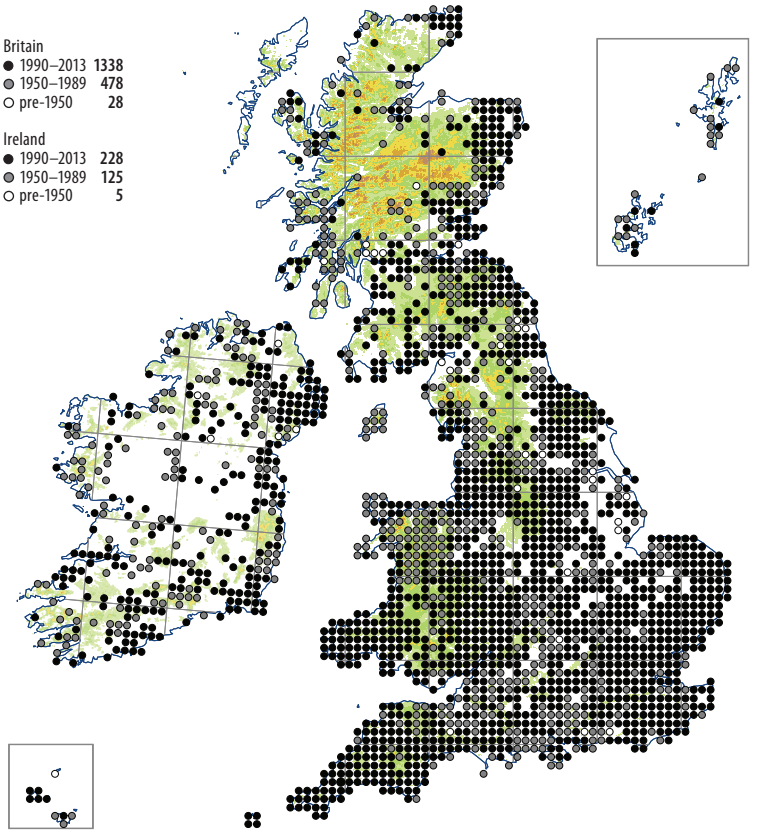
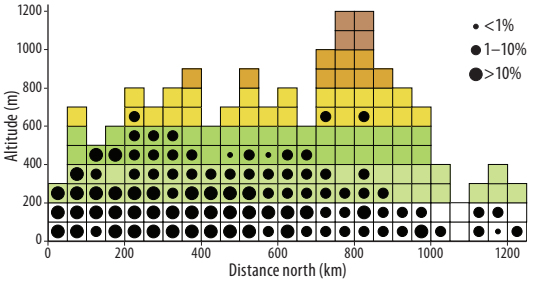
Tortula truncata



An ephemeral of disturbed, fertile, non-calcareous mineral soil in both natural and man-made habitats. It is an abundant species of cultivated land, and was recorded in over 90% of samples in the two assemblages of acid soils defined by Preston *et al.* (2010) following the BBS survey of arable fields. It also occurs in gardens, in thin grass leys, on disturbed ground in pastures (including mole-hills and ant-hills), on woodland rides, tracksides and roadsides, quarries, sand and gravel pits, ditch, stream and river banks, reservoir margins, and rocky cliff slopes. Occasionally it grows where the soil is very thin, as on old tarmac, even exceptionally on soft wood. It avoids infertile peaty soil as well as highly calcareous substrates. Side (1977) found that *Tortula truncata* was replaced by *Microbryum davallianum* in arable fields where the pH exceeded 8. Characteristic associates, especially in arable fields, include *Bryum rubens*, *B. violaceum*, *Dicranella schreberiana*, *D. staphylina*, *Oxyrrhynchium hians*, *Phascum cuspidatum* and *Trichodon cylindricus*. Altitudinal range: 0–570 m.



The density of records in the 1991–1994 Atlas highlighted well-recorded counties. This is now true only to a limited extent and coverage is much more complete.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, maturing throughout the year but mainly in autumn and winter. Rhizoidal tubers have been recorded on plants from Somerset (Hill, 2005a); Arts (1987b) reported that they remained viable in Belgian material even after four years' dry storage.

Circumpolar Temperate. Europe from the Mediterranean region north to Iceland, S Scandinavia and NW Russia, east to the S Urals and Caucasus. Macaronesia, N Africa (rare). Turkey, Iran. C and E Asia, Japan. N America, southern S America. Australia, New Zealand.

D. F. Chamberlain & C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel