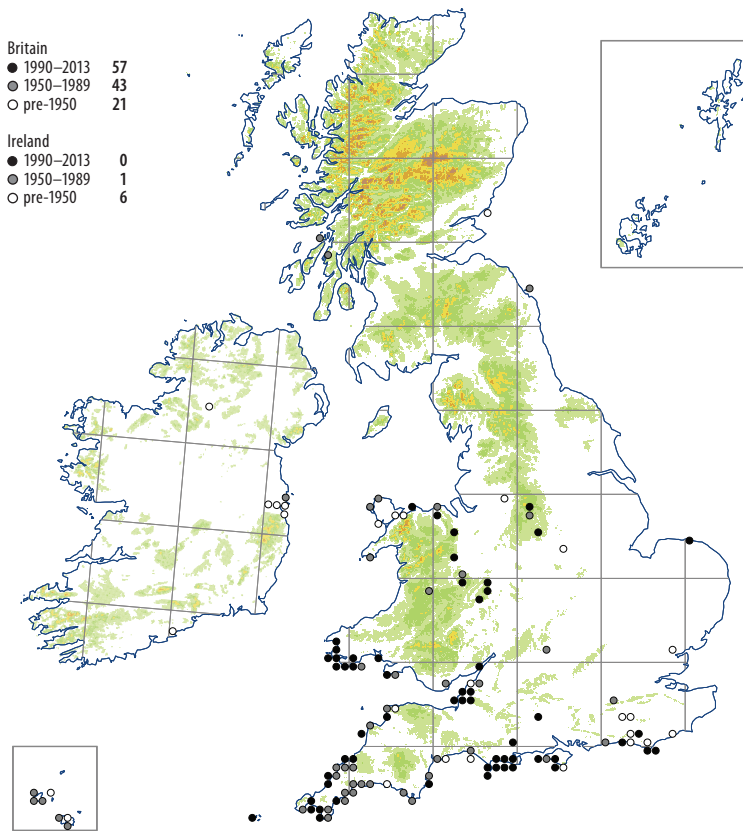


Microbryum starckeanum



An annual of disturbed or shallow, open soil. It grows on cliff tops and rocky or earthy cliff slopes, walls, banks, roadsides and pathsides, in quarries, chalk and limestone grassland, and (rarely) on woodland rides. Unlike *Microbryum davallianum*, it is found only rarely in stubble fields. At coastal sites it is most frequent on limestone but is also recorded from calcareous clay and sandstone as well as over non calcareous rocks such as serpentine and slate. Inland populations are nearly confined to calcareous ground or to lead-contaminated soil in old diggings and calaminarian grassland. Associated species include *M. davallianum* and *Tortula lanceola*. By the coast it is tolerant of salt spray, and it may then grow with *Tortella flavovirens* and *Trichostomum brachydontium*. Altitudinal range: 5–360 m.

Autoicous; it is only identifiable with capsules, which are commonly present, maturing from November to May.

Microbryum starckeanum and *M. davallianum* belong to a difficult complex which is sometimes split into several narrowly defined species. The concept adopted here, recognising two species, is that of Ros *et al.* (1996).

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Widespread in S, W and C Europe from the Mediterranean region north to Scandinavia (one old record from Sweden), Poland and Kaliningrad. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia to Tajikistan. South-western N America, Mexico. Australia and New Zealand.

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