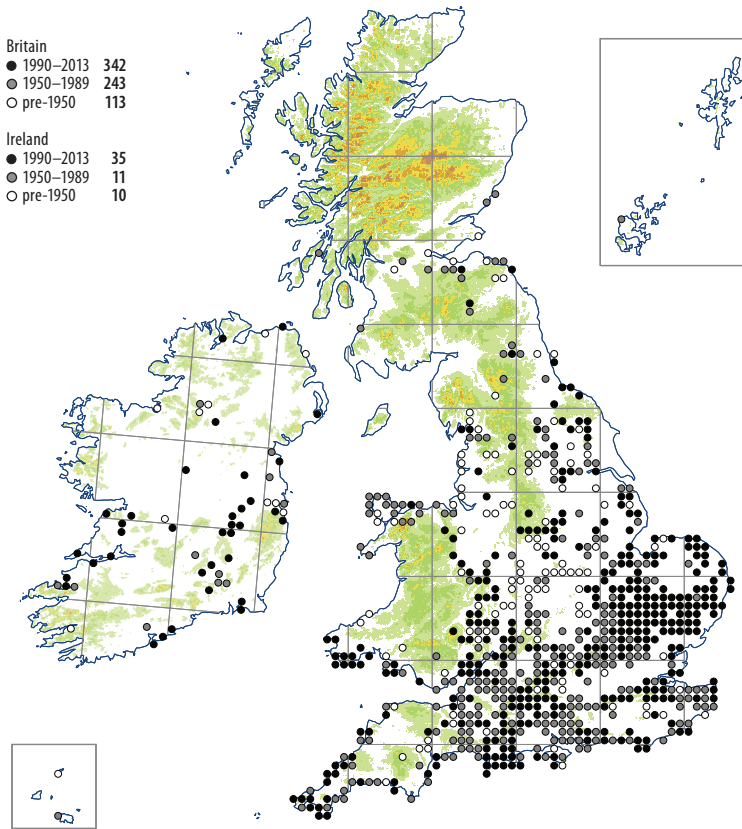


Microbryum davallianum

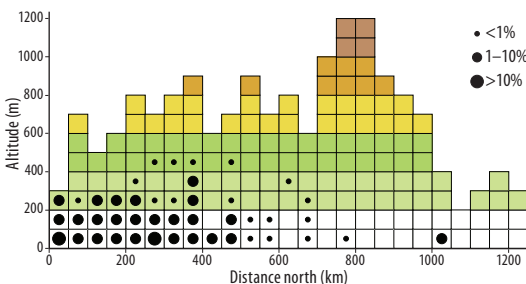


An early colonist of disturbed calcareous soil, most frequently over chalk, limestone and calcareous clay. Characteristic habitats include stubble fields, compacted paths and tracks, quarries, thin soil around limestone outcrops, patches of bare soil in grassland and road verges, woodland rides and (formerly) earth-capped walls. In stubble fields it is a defining member of the *Phascum cuspidatum*–*Microbryum davallianum* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from fields with basic soils, often growing with *Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum rubens* and *Dicranella varia*. In unimproved grasslands and about rock outcrops *Weissia brachycarpa* var. *obliqua* and *W. controversa* are frequent associates. Like some other Pottiaceae it is less strictly calcicolous in coastal sites, where it grows on earthy banks, thin soil over rocky cliffs, and sand dunes, and it

occurs occasionally on circumneutral soil inland. Altitudinal range: 0–380 m.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature from late autumn to spring, or occasionally in summer. Rhizoid fragments can regenerate after 1–2 years' dry storage (Arts, 1987b).

Var. *commutatum* is not mapped separately here; it differs in the presence of a well-developed peristome and occurs in similar habitats, mainly as a winter annual, and is almost confined to southern coastal areas. Bosanquet (2010) reports that there are no convincing intermediates in Pembrokeshire. Var. *davallianum*, as understood here, was divided by Chamberlain (1969) into two taxa, treated as subspecies of *M. starckeianum* (at that time known as *Pottia starckeana* subsp. *minutula* and subsp. *conica*), but Ros *et al.* (1996) concluded that they were not distinct.



Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Widespread in Europe north to C Scandinavia, the Baltic States and C European Russia. Macaronesia, N Africa, SW Asia, to Georgia and Iran. N America, Mexico. Australia.

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