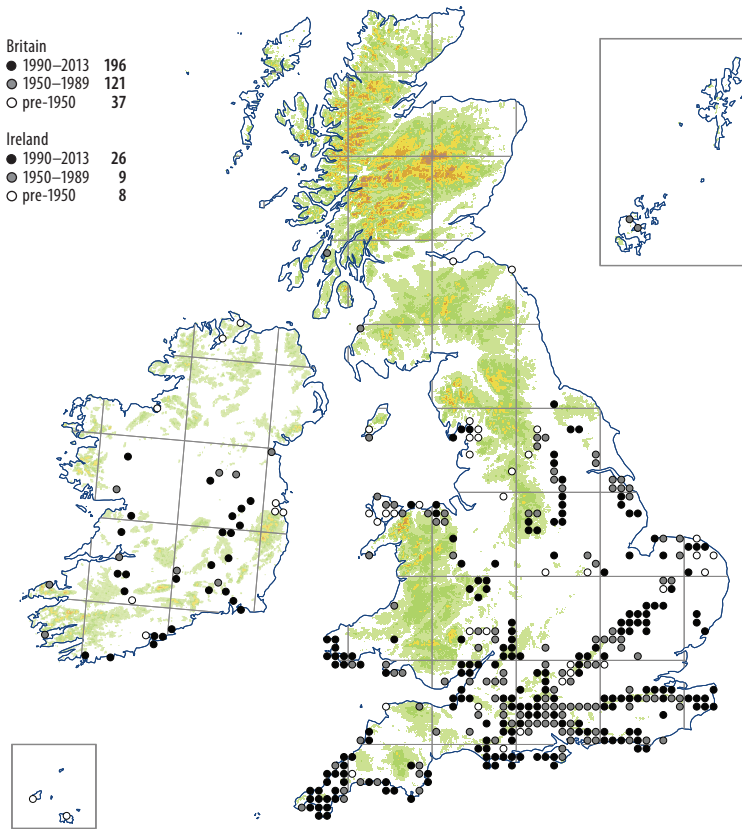


Microbryum rectum



It occupies a similar range of habitats to *Tortula protobryoides* in thin turf and on bare soil in chalk and limestone districts, including grassland, quarries, banks, coastal slopes, tracks and roadsides, frequently with other *Microbryum* species. Unlike *T. protobryoides* it is also frequent in calcareous stubble fields, and is a characteristic member of the *Phascum cuspidatum*–*Microbryum davallianum* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010) from arable fields with basic soils, where its other associates include *Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum rubens* and *Dicranella varia*. It occurs more rarely on soils over sandstone, calcareous clay and other moderately base-rich substrates, on waste ground, soil heaps, earthy banks, pathsides and cliff tops. In Cornwall it grows as a winter annual in cultivated fields (including bulb fields) and crevices in hedges near the coast. In areas

dominated by acid rocks it has been found by coastal lime kilns. Altitudinal range: 5–290 m.

Although there have been increased numbers of records in some areas, as in Ireland, *M. rectum* is at increasing risk from the loss of grazed calcareous grassland, and vegetational succession in quarries and pits.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature in autumn through to spring. Fragments of rhizoid can regenerate after 1–2 years' dry storage (Arts, 1987b).

Mediterranean-Atlantic. W and S Europe from the Mediterranean region north to Scotland, Denmark and C Germany. N Africa. Turkey, Israel, Iraq, Caucasus, Iran.

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