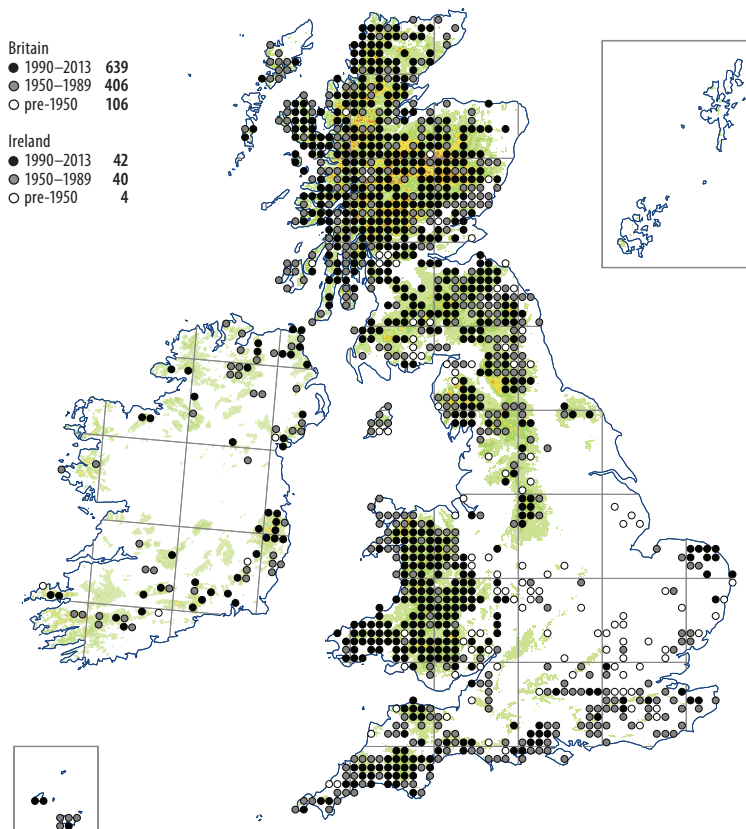


Bartramia pomiformis



A glaucous-green cushion-forming moss growing in acid or mildly basic rock crevices, typically on sandstone or shale, and particularly in ravines and on cliffs, and on rocky banks in woodland. It occupies both dry and irrigated crevices. Associates include *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Diphyscium foliosum*, *Heterocladium heteropterum*, *Pohlia elongata* and *Racomitrium* spp. In C and E England it is found on shaded earth banks and in road cuttings, often among tree roots or stones, and principally on strongly acid gravels and sandstones, where additional associates may include *Conocephalum conicum*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pogonatum* spp., *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* and *Weissia* spp. It may also occur in crevices in stone walls. The production of epicuticular wax probably facilitates gas exchange in wet situations

by preventing the formation of a water film on the leaves. Altitudinal range: 5–1000 m.

The disappearance of *Bartramia pomiformis* from many lowland localities in the mid to late 20th century is probably attributable to the effects of air pollutants and the cessation of traditional methods of hedgebank maintenance. Recent records from East Anglia give some hope that it may be recolonising locally.

Autoicous or synoicous; capsules are produced abundantly, mature in summer.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Almost throughout Europe from the Arctic (but not present in Iceland or Svalbard) south to the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa, Turkey, Iran, N, C and E Asia to Japan. N America and Greenland. Reports from southern S America and New Zealand are now referred to *B. mossmaniana* (Fransén, 2004b).

J.W. Bates, rev. N.G. Hodgetts

