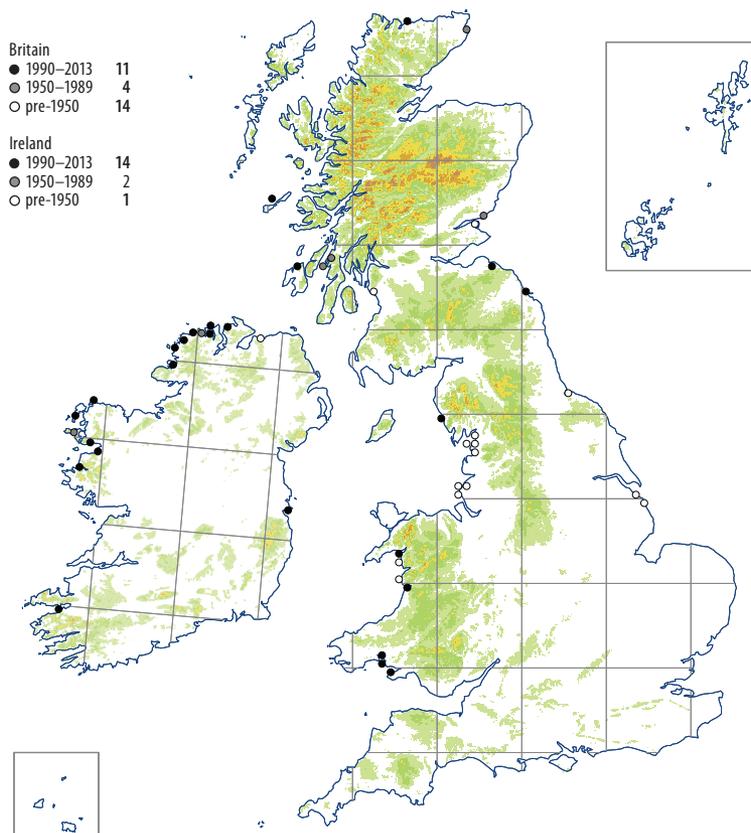


Bryum marratii



A halophytic moss of open ground near the sea, usually as small populations, although it may persist for decades at particular locations. Contrary to statements that it “avoids saltmarshes” (Crundwell in Hill *et al.*, 1994), recent records are mostly from damp mud, humic sand or firm soil at upper edges of saltmarshes beside estuaries, near sea lochs or similar coastal inlets, and inland of a shingle beach. Some of these sites flood with weakly saline water during the highest tides, others receive run-off from the land or from adjacent dunes. Thus at the two large S Wales colonies there is close correlation between areas of seepage from the dunes on to the saltmarsh and the *Bryum marratii* colonies. Associated plants include *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Glaux maritima* and *Juncus gerardii*. Although it grows on sand on some dune-saltmarsh transitions, records from dune slacks (Smith, 2004) and records of it as an associate of *B. calophyllum* and

B. warneum are mainly due to misidentification of non-fertile *B. calophyllum*, for which that is the usual habitat. Altitudinal range: 0–10 m.

Targeted surveys (Holyoak, 2001c, 2002a, b; Lockhart *et al.*, 2012) have led to numerous new records, especially in NW Ireland. There is a picture of decline in England, where there are now very few populations, but three new colonies have been found since 2012 in S Wales. One local extinction appears to have resulted from cessation of grazing at saltmarsh edges and this may threaten several other Irish populations (Lockhart *et al.*, 2012).

Autoicous; capsules are occasional, mature in late summer and autumn. Bulbils, axillary gemmae and tubers are absent, and protonemal gemmae also apparently absent. Broken-off stem tips resembling large bulbils frequently occur, probably functioning as propagules.

The status of *B. marratii* as a distinct species is supported by molecular data (Bell *et al.*, 2013).

European Boreal-montane. NW Europe, from Iceland to Normandy and eastwards to the Baltic coasts and inland in Slovakia. Reported elsewhere from NC Asia (Altai) and a few sites in N America. A report from Yemen (Kürschner, 1996, 2000) seems unlikely to be correct.

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