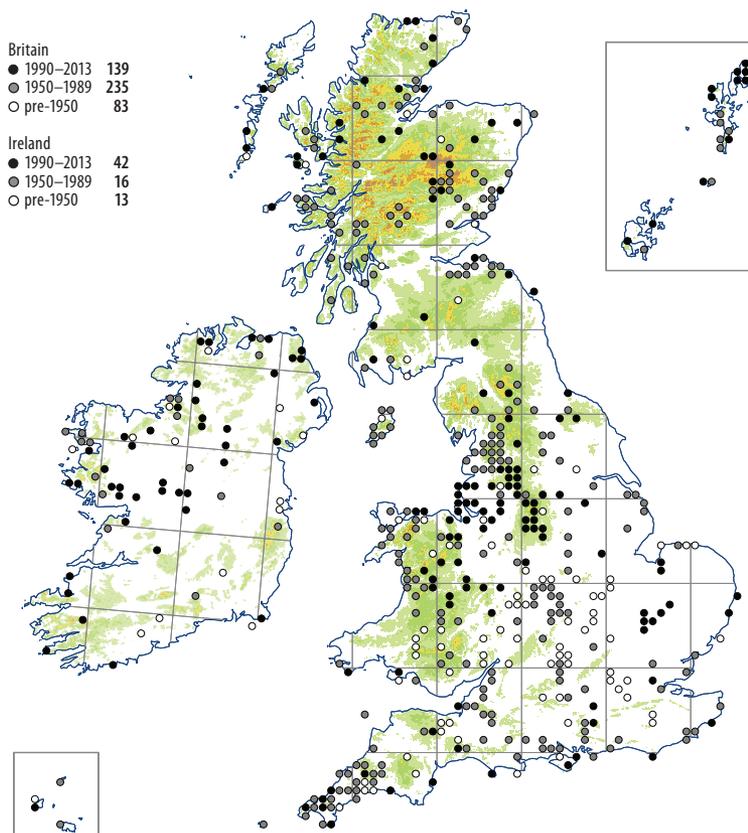


## Bryum archangelicum



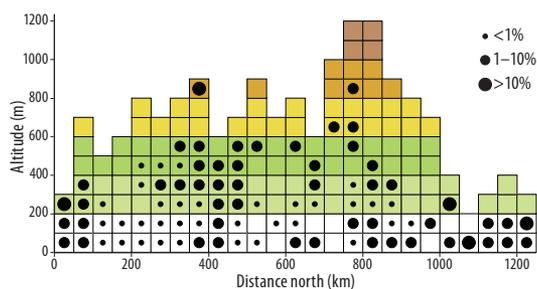
A moss that grows mainly in unshaded basic habitats, on soil or sand (on dunes, in dune slacks and at saltmarsh edges), on rock ledges, in chalk pits and gravel pits, and on banks, roadsides or waste ground. It also grows sometimes in rock crevices, e.g. on limestone pavement or on basic rocks on mountains and cliffs, and on walls and old buildings. It normally avoids acid substrates and peat, but O'Toole & Synnott (1971) found that in Ireland this species appeared as a colonist on freshly exposed peat one year after addition of calcium carbonate and phosphorus. Altitudinal range: 0–730 m.

The species is doubtless under-recorded because microscopic study of mature capsules and intact inflorescences is necessary to identify it. This is exacerbated in southern England by the fact that it fruits outside the main

recording season. Old records greatly outnumber modern finds and some decline has doubtless occurred due to loss of habitat. However, many of its populations are impermanent and result from temporary colonisation of patches of bare ground. It is therefore to be expected that records made since 1990 will be fewer than all those amassed over the previous 150 years or more.

Synocious; capsules are common, mature in spring, summer and autumn. Bulbils, tubers and axillary gemmae are absent.

Several nomenclatural changes have affected this species, which was known under the illegitimate name *Bryum inclinatum* in older floras, then briefly as *B. imbricatum* or *B. amblyodon*. Following Holyoak (2004), the widespread taxon is now regarded as conspecific with *B. archangelicum* which has been treated in the past as a rare montane moss.



Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe from Iceland and Svalbard southwards to Spain and the Balkans. Known elsewhere from the cold and temperate zones of both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, including Australia and Antarctica.

D.T. Holyoak