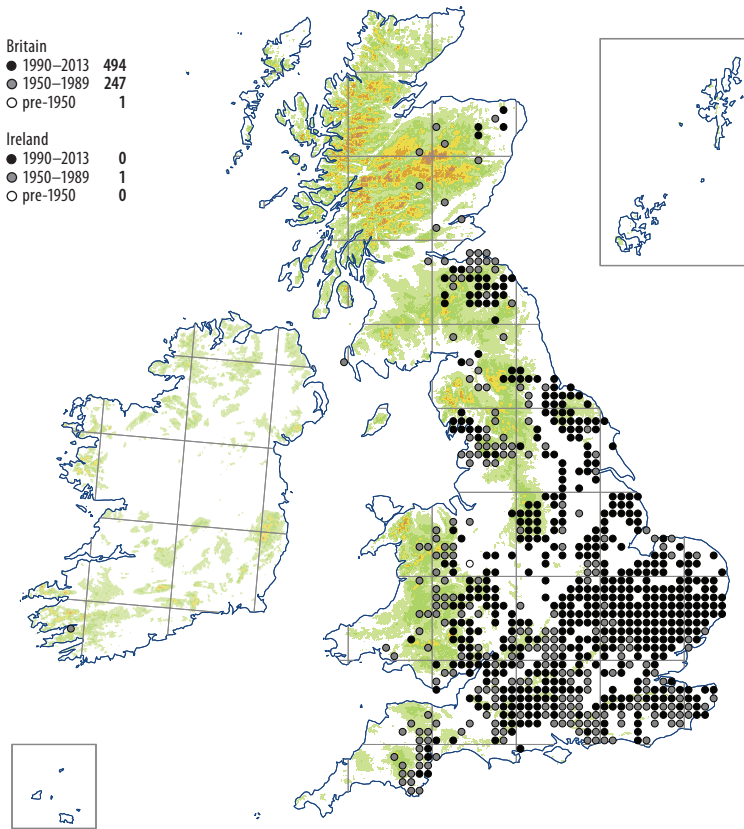


# Bryum moravicum



Characteristically growing on the bark of trees and bushes (especially elder, ash, sycamore and field maple), and much more closely tied to this habitat than the allied and commoner *Bryum capillare*. It also occurs more rarely on stumps, rotten logs, rocks, soil and sedge tussocks. The single Irish record from Co. Kerry, although surprisingly far west, is based on a correctly identified specimen. The epiphytic habitat does not prevail throughout Europe, since in the central Spanish Pyrenees it grows on thin soil over rocks (including limestone) (DTH, *pers. obs.*) and in EC Sweden on granitic boulders in forests, especially beneath trees with base-rich bark (Weibull, 2001). Altitudinal range: 0–270 m.

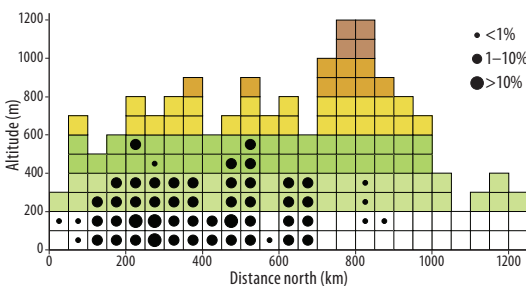
The 1991–1994 Atlas suggested that the species was under-recorded at that time because it was not recognised as

a British and Irish taxon until the revision by Syed (1973). Additional records have filled in many gaps since then, but this masks a strong declining trend since 1980, especially in the polluted lowlands. The reasons for the decline are unclear.

Dioicous; capsules are unknown in Britain, but with scattered records from continental Europe (mature in summer) and locally frequent in C Spanish Pyrenees. Uniseriate gemmae occur in the leaf axils, tubers on the rhizoids; bulbils are absent. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Whitehouse, 1987) and in nature; gemmiferous protonemata have been recorded growing from the lamina of a wild-collected leaf (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

Some confusion with gemmiferous forms of *B. pallens* or *B. pseudotriquetrum* is likely to have occurred because their regular occurrence was not appreciated until recently, and some records of *B. moravicum* from rocks or soil may result from the assumption that any *Bryum* with uniseriate axillary gemmae is *B. moravicum*.

Circumpolar Temperate. The European range extends from N Iceland and N Fennoscandia south to Spain, Italy, Serbia and the Caucasus. N Africa (Algeria, Morocco). Turkey. Elsewhere it is known in Asia and N America. The identity of similar plants in the West Indies and S America needs further investigation.



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