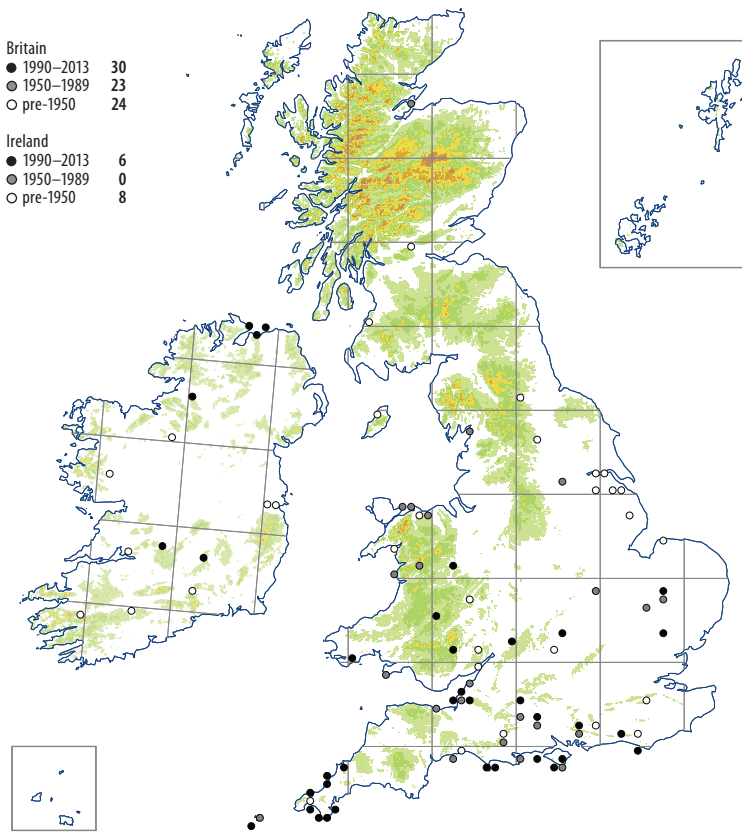


Bryum torquescens



A moss that typically grows on calcareous soil in open sunny places, especially on free-draining substrates. It occurs on banks, in open patches in grassland, on roadsides, about old quarries, on the top of sea cliffs, in sand dunes and on thin soil overlying rocks, especially limestone but also hard metamorphic rocks, serpentinite and concrete. Typical associates include *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Weissia* spp. and, on coastal sites, *Trichostomum brachydontium*. Altitudinal range: 5–300 m.

The species is probably under-recorded because inflorescences need to be checked for reliable separation from the very common *Bryum capillare*, with which it was often confused prior to the review by Syed (1973). The increased number of records since the 1991–1994 Atlas and records from additional regions such as N Ireland may reflect

more attention being given to checking inflorescences. However, a real increase in abundance has possibly occurred. Frahm & Klaus (2001) found that German records were mainly associated with warm years, perhaps implying that they represented impermanent populations that had rapidly colonised during warmer than usual climatic conditions, or that the production of gametangia and sporophytes was more successful at such times.

Usually synoicous, rarely autoicous or dioicous; capsules are common, mature in spring. Tubers are usually present on the rhizoids; bulbils and axillary gemmae are absent.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Knowledge of its global range is incomplete because of confusion with *B. capillare* or treatment as a synonym of that species. The European range of *B. torquescens* extends from Scotland, S Sweden and the Czech Republic to the Mediterranean basin, where it is common. Elsewhere it is known in Macaronesia, Africa, Asia, N, C and S America, Australia and New Zealand.

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