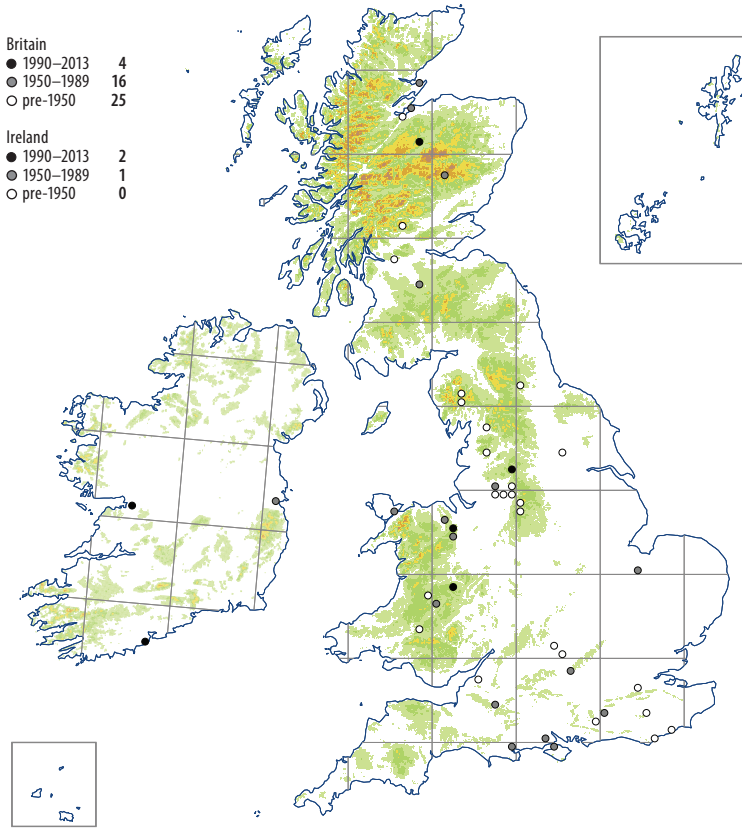


Bryum creberrimum



A moss that grows mainly on open soil, often mixed with gravel and sometimes with sand. Most records come from roadside banks or waste places, but it has occasionally been recorded on dunes, in flower pots, or in crevices in rocks and walls. There is an Irish record from a rotten log. It is likely that most, if not all colonies are transient and that *Bryum creberrimum* acts as a widespread but rare colonist. Altitudinal range: 5–575 m.

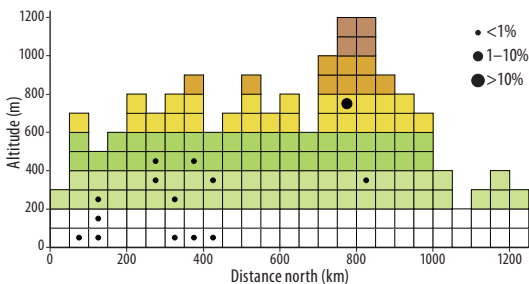
It is a scarce species that is likely to be overlooked because identification requires critical microscopic study of good specimens with mature spores and well preserved peristomes and inflorescences. Older records are unreliable because synoicous plants of *B. pallescens* were sometimes called *B. creberrimum*. British and Irish herbarium specimens of these species were revised by Smith (1973, 1974b)

and subsequent workers have followed his criteria for identification of the species.

Synoicous; capsules are common, mature in summer. Tubers, bulbils and axillary gemmae are absent.

A minority of plants are virtually indistinguishable from *B. pallescens* with small spores, so treatment of *B. creberrimum* as a subspecies might be more appropriate.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. The European range of *B. creberrimum* extends from Iceland and Svalbard southwards to Spain and the Caucasus. Azores, Morocco. Elsewhere there are records from Asia, N America (where it is "a common weed": Crum & Anderson, 1981), Argentina and Australia.



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