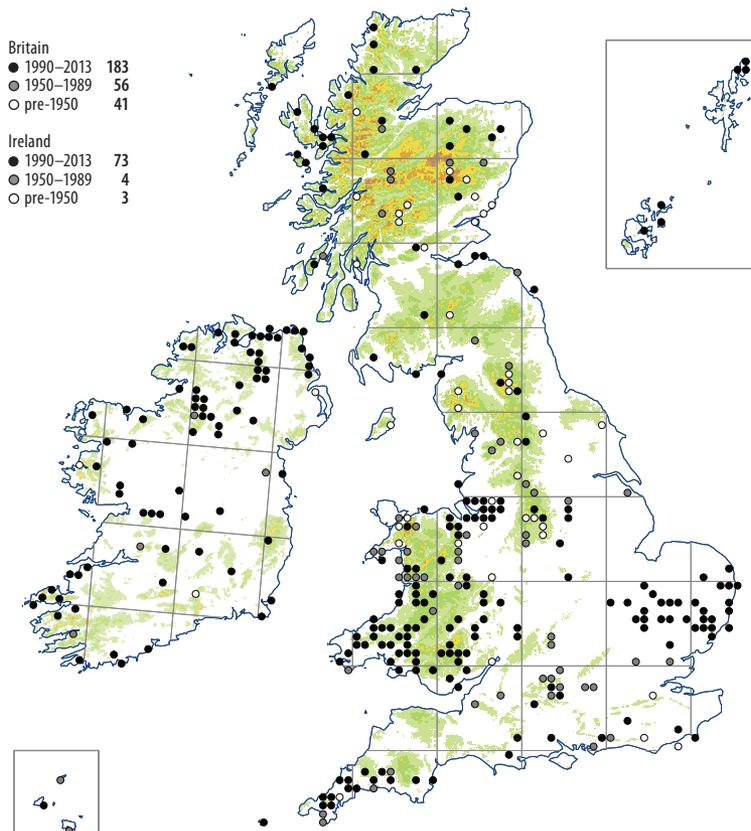


# Bryum pallescens



Grows on soil (e.g. on roadsides, waste ground, in quarries or sand/gravel pits), on sand dunes and in crevices in rocks and walls, mostly in open places on basic to mildly acid substrates. Numerous recent records have been from metal-contaminated sites (beneath galvanised-iron roofs, gates, fences and pylons; about old copper and lead mines; on thatch protected by chicken wire), showing that the species is much more widespread and frequent than previously recorded, but it is unclear whether it has spread or was previously overlooked in such places. Many of these colonies are composed of dense cushions or deep, extensive patches. Sullivan (2004) reported analyses of substrates from six localities in Cornwall, that all showed high levels of zinc, whereas levels of copper and lead were very high in some samples but close to those of uncontaminated soil in others. It is sometimes found in Britain and Ireland in other

contaminated places such as old bonfire sites and about old industrial premises. Altitudinal range: 0–800 m.

Synoicous (but often with antheridia present only in small numbers in a minority of inflorescences), less often autoicous; capsules mature mainly in summer. Bulbils, axillary gemmae and tubers are absent. The protonema is transient; protonemal gemmae are produced on wild plants (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

The species is probably still overlooked in non-metalliferous habitats because critical microscopic study of good fruiting material is needed.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. The range in Europe extends from Iceland and Svalbard southwards to the Mediterranean region. SW Asia. Elsewhere it is recorded in Macaronesia (Canary Islands), N and C Africa, Asia, N, C and S America, Greenland, New Zealand and the Antarctic Peninsula.

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