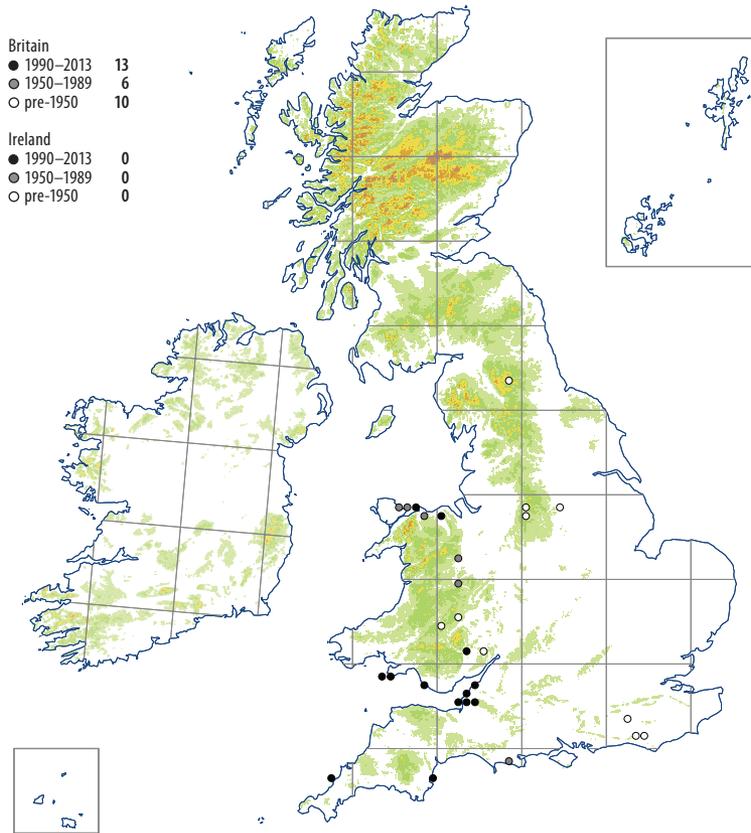


Bryum kunzei



In Britain mainly confined to chalk and limestone districts, occurring on free-draining calcareous soil in sunny places, typically in gaps in short turf on hillsides or on calcareous rock ledges. Regular associates include *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Pleurochaete squarrosa*, *Tortula lanceola* and *Weissia longifolia* var. *angustifolia*, and *Bryum kunzei* has been found alongside *W. levieri* in Glamorgan. A recent record from W Cornwall was from short turf on the top edge of a slaty sea cliff, and the Monmouthshire colony is on thin soil overlying calcareous Old Red Sandstone. Altitudinal range: 15–340 m.

There was a peak of records in the late 1970s, followed by a dip in the late 1980s, since when records have steadily increased. The recent increase may be due to an increasing number of bryologists gaining familiarity with this subtle

species. It is uncertain whether it has disappeared from some counties that only have old records; the specimens from Anglesey, Herefordshire and E Sussex, at least, are correctly determined but their sites have not been revisited.

Diocious; capsules are unknown in Britain, but reported from C Europe. Bulbils, tubers and axillary gemmae are absent.

Probably somewhat under-recorded, since only well-grown typical material can be identified. Formerly treated as a variety of *B. caespiticium*, but as pointed out by Hill (1988) the taxon is worthy of specific rank, has little resemblance to *B. caespiticium* and is more likely to be confused, especially in the field, with *B. elegans*.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. The range in Europe extends from S Norway, S Sweden, Poland and European Russia to Spain, Corsica, Sicily, Greece and the Caucasus. Elsewhere confirmed from the Canary Islands and Turkey; other reports need confirmation (Svalbard, N Africa, Middle East, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Nevada in USA).

D.T. Holyoak & S.D.S. Bosanquet

