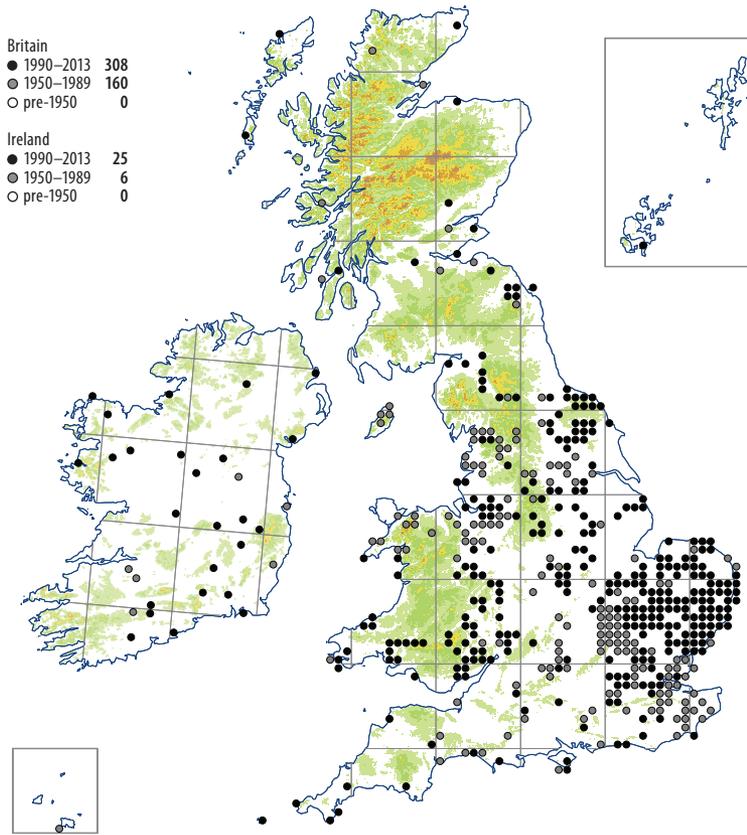


Bryum gemmiferum



This species apparently shows a strong preference for unshaded sandy substrates, occurring on steep and often damp sandy cliffs and river banks and on horizontal sandy surfaces in pits, quarries and dune slacks. It also grows on clayey soils and on moist, disturbed chalky soils, as on the floors of chalk pits or on dredgings from ponds and ditches. It is rare to frequent in different types of arable fields (Preston *et al.*, 2010). Other habitats recorded are on waste ground, on reservoir mud, woodland rides, chalk pits, railway ballast and in greenhouses. Its associates on eroding banks by rivers may include *Bryum dichotomum*, *Pleuridium acuminatum*, *Pohlia annotina*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and *Trichodon cylindricus*. In ruderal habitats recorded associates have included *Barbula convoluta*, *Bryum argenteum*, *Ceratodon purpureus* and *Funaria hygrometrica*. Altitudinal range: 0–450 m.

Bryum gemmiferum was collected at Cassington near Oxford in 1948 but was not generally recognised as distinct until about 1965. It apparently remained widely overlooked until it was named new to science from Belgium by Wilczek & Demaret (1976). It is uncertain whether it has spread recently in Britain, Ireland and elsewhere in western Europe or was previously overlooked as the very variable *B. dichotomum*. The 1991–1994 Atlas noted that it was still under-recorded, but this probably does not apply to records from the past two decades.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional to frequent, mature in spring or summer. Axillary bulbils are usually present, but filamentous axillary gemmae lacking. Tubers are sometimes produced in culture but are rarely if ever found in nature (Smith & Whitehouse, 1978). Protonemal gemmae are produced both in nature and in culture (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

Suboceanic Temperate. Recorded in continental Europe from S Sweden and Denmark (Hallingbäck *et al.*, 2008) southwards to Portugal, Spain, Menorca (Guerra *et al.*, 2010) and Austria (Schlüsslmayr, 2005). Known elsewhere in the Canary Islands and California (Vanderpoorten, 2001).

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