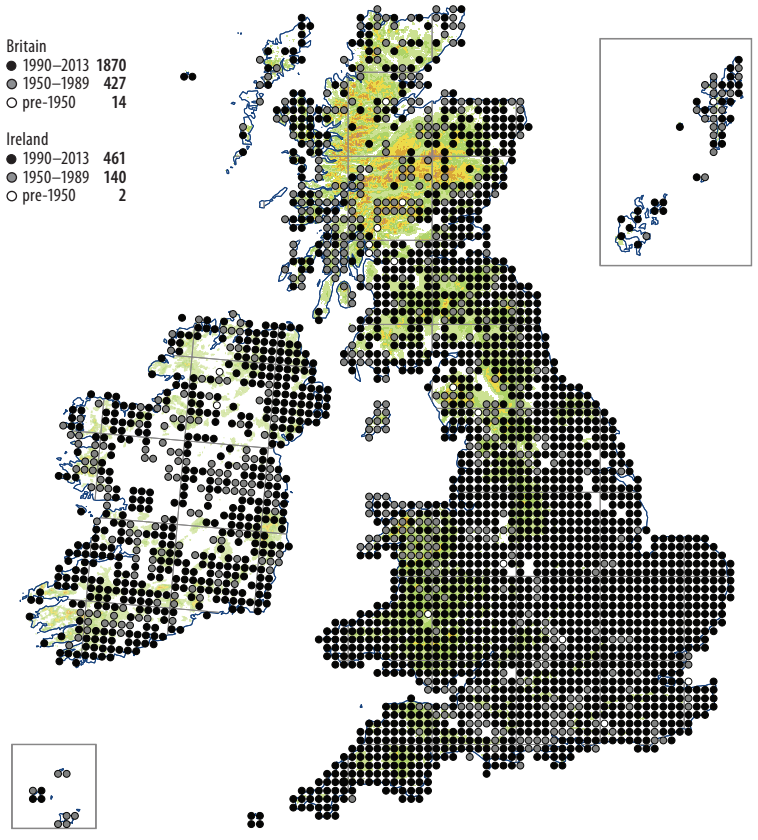
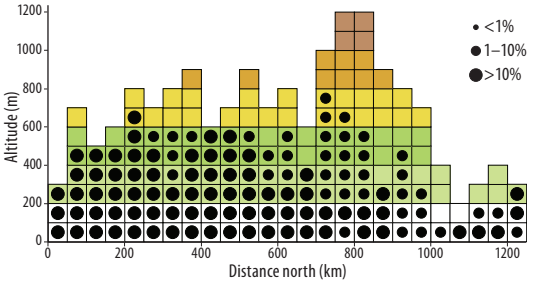
Bryum dichotomum



A common lowland moss in Britain and Ireland, recorded as a colonist of basic to slightly acid, fertile soils (sandy, gravelly, silty, clay, or loam) in a wide variety of mainly unshaded habitats, including compacted soil by paths and on roadsides, on soil heaps, gardens, and waste ground, in small crevices of tarmac, concrete and walls, often in towns and in nutrient-enriched places with *Bryum argenteum*. It is frequent in most types of arable field (Preston *et al.*, 2010). It also occurs on sea cliffs, in quarries, on rocks and tree bark in inundation zones of streams and rivers, on sand dunes, in dune slacks and on soil over limestone pavement, rarely on rotting wood, old sacking and even old boots. Altitudinal range: 0–525 m.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, mature in all months but mainly in autumn and winter. Caducous axillary bulbils are usually present; filamentous axillary gemmae are absent. Rhizoidal tubers are frequent, and several types have been described (Wilczek & Demaret, 1978, 1980; Risse, 1993; Cortini Pedrotti & Aleffi, 2001; Cortini Pedrotti, 2001). Gemmae and lipid-packed bulbils are produced on the protonema in culture (Pressel *et al.*, 2007); such bulbils have not been seen in the wild in Britain or Ireland but are common in riverside populations in southern Africa (Duckett & Ligrone, 1992).



The taxonomic treatment of this species follows Holyoak (2003b) in regarding *B. bicolor*, *B. dunense* and *B. barnesii* as conspecific. The first two of these have traditionally been treated as distinct species in Britain and Ireland while the last has been recognised as distinct by some continental authors (e.g. Wilczek & Demaret, 1976). Although these have phenotypes with distinct leaf and bulbil morphology, they are frequently connected by intermediate forms.

European Wide-temperate. The species occurs almost throughout Europe, from C Scandinavia and Iceland southwards to the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia and N Africa. SW Asia. Elsewhere it is known from all continents, including Antarctica.

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