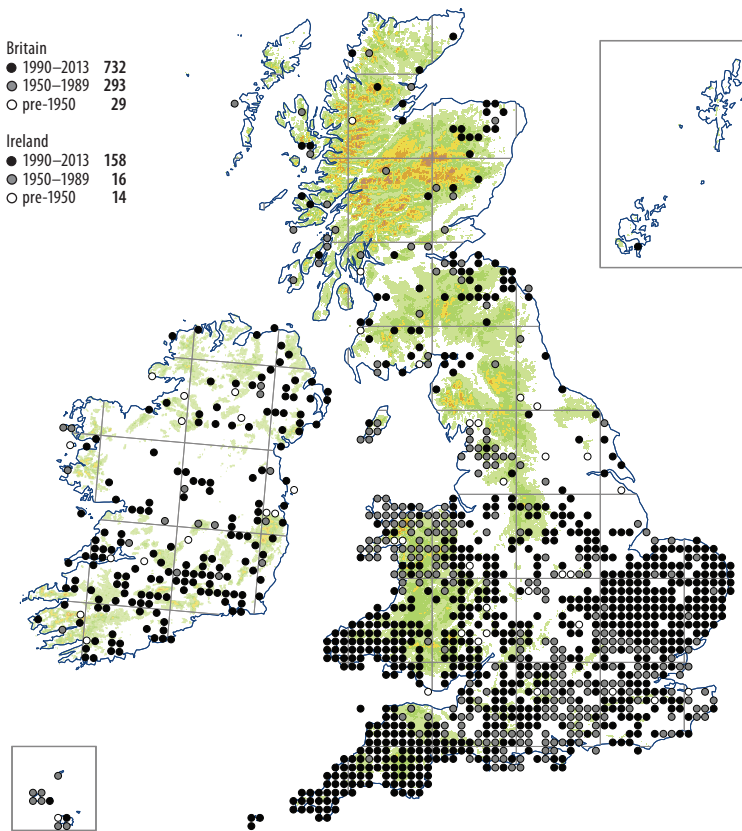


Bryum radiculosum



A calcicole moss that prefers hard substrates or crevices in unshaded or lightly shaded dry or free-draining places. It typically grows on old mortar of walls, old concrete, limestone rocks and hard calcareous soil, often alongside *Didymodon rigidulus*, *Schistidium crassipilum* or *Tortula muralis*. It is less frequent on loose, chalky soil in chalk grassland or in arable fields. Although known in Britain and Ireland since the 19th century under the name *Bryum murale* Wilson, it was not recognised as a common plant until the late H.L.K. Whitehouse discovered that it produces tubers (Crundwell & Nyholm, 1964). Altitudinal range: 0–375 m.

Dioicous; both sexes are widespread and capsules are common, mature in spring and early summer. Tubers are consistently present on rhizoids (never axillary), sometimes plentiful especially at the base of old stems but sometimes

very few. Bulbils and axillary gemmae are lacking. The protonema is perennial, producing gemmae (Whitehouse, 1987; Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

Because it is a small moss that needs microscopic study for reliable identification it is probably still somewhat under-recorded, especially in N England, Scotland and Ireland. Plants on loose, chalky soil can be very difficult to distinguish from variants of *B. ruderale* with brown rhizoids.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. The range in continental Europe extends from Denmark and Estonia (Dengler & Boch, 2007) southwards to the Mediterranean region, where it is widespread. Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands), N Africa. Near and Middle East. Elsewhere it is known from southern Africa, Japan, Bermuda and C and S America.

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