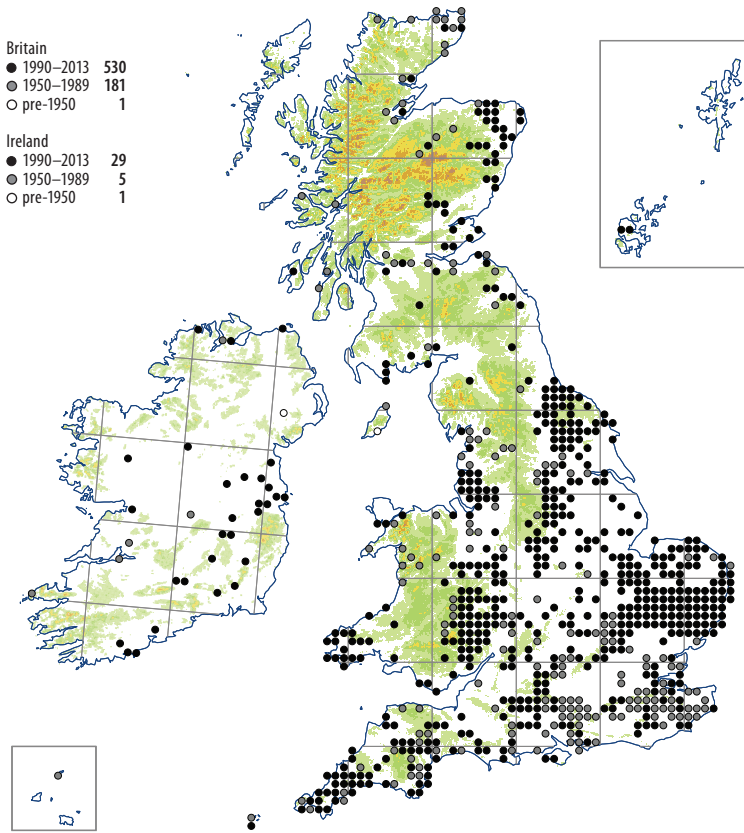


Bryum violaceum



A moss of calcareous to slightly acid, disturbed soil in temporarily open habitats, especially arable fields but also earth banks, gardens, graveyards, soil heaps, roadsides and waste ground. Preston *et al.* (2010) found it to be frequent in most types of arable field, and in some fields it is more abundant than *Bryum rubens*. It is evidently an early colonist after disturbance. An inconspicuous plant, hardly ever collected in Britain and Ireland before 1960, when interest in the '*Bryum erythrocarpum* complex' began to increase (Crundwell & Nyholm, 1964). Altitudinal range: 0–300 m.

Dioicous; male plants are rare and capsules not known in Britain or Ireland. Crundwell & Nyholm (1964) knew of only three specimens with capsules, one from Sweden, two from the USA. Rhizoidal tubers are usually numerous. Bulbils and

axillary gemmae are absent; the protonema is transient, and protonemal gemmae are produced (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

The 1991–1994 Atlas noted that it was doubtless often overlooked, but this tendency has been less prevalent over the past two decades with the special emphasis on studying bryophytes of arable land.

European Temperate. Recorded in Europe from Iceland, Faeroes, C Norway, C Sweden and S Finland southwards to Italy and Greece, but apparently scarce in the Mediterranean region (reports from Spain are erroneous: Guerra *et al.*, 2010: 178). Canary Islands (Tenerife). SW Asia (Turkey, Saudi Arabia). Known elsewhere from Kashmir, N Asia (Kamchatsky Territory: Czernyadjeva, Maksimov & Zolotov, 2009), N America (Canada, USA), and Argentina (Patagonia).

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