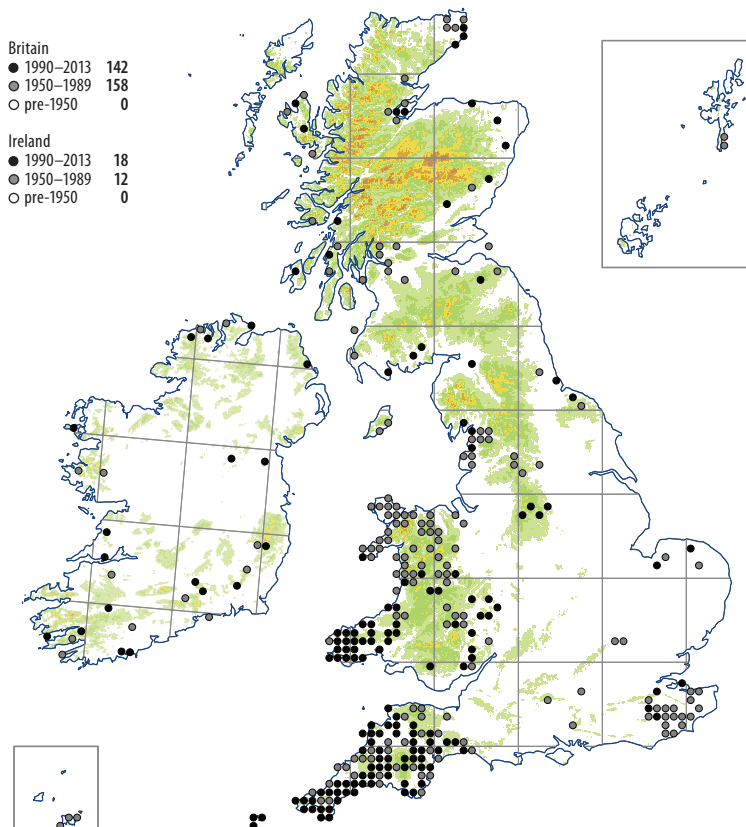


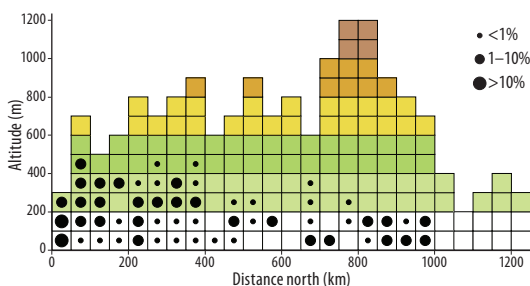
Bryum sauteri



A colonist of mildly basic, circumneutral or mildly acid soils, often where soil is temporarily exposed (e.g. on earthy banks above streams, on molehills, beside badger setts), and disappearing when larger plants shade the ground. It sometimes grows in open sunny places but more often where sheltered and lightly or partly shaded. Most records are from places that are not regularly cultivated, such as hedgebanks, lanesides, churchyards, cliff tops and banks around fields. However, Preston *et al.* (2010) found that although it is mainly absent or scarce in arable fields, it is frequent in fields rich in bryophyte species on acid soils in N and W Britain. Occasionally it also occurs on rock ledges or on thin soil over rocks, sometimes even on shaded vertical substrates. Altitudinal range: 5–525 m.

It appears to be mainly dioicous in Britain and Ireland, with synoicous and autoicous populations recorded in continental Europe, but synoicous inflorescences recorded once from Cornwall (C.D. Preston in Hill, 2005b). Capsules are unknown in Britain and Ireland, but are recorded in Norway (mature in August). It apparently always occurs with plentiful rhizoidal gemmae (and is unidentifiable without them). Numerous plants from a stream bank in Cornwall had the upper stem very fragile, so that the leafy shoot tips were deciduous (Holyoak, 2012). Protonemal gemmae are produced (Whitehouse, 1987; Pressel *et al.*, 2007); tubers may also be produced on the protonema (Whitehouse, 1985).

Reported as new for Britain by Crundwell (1962), it is a small and inconspicuous moss, often present in small amounts. The 1991–1994 Atlas noted that it was very rarely collected before 1960 and was still under-recorded, but this problem has been less severe over the past two decades.



European Temperate. The range in Europe extends from Iceland and C Norway southwards to Portugal (Holyoak, 2010c), Spain, Italy and the Caucasus. Macaronesia, N Africa (Egypt). Known elsewhere from St Helena, southern Africa, Rodrigues, Réunion, India, Ecuador, Chile (Arts, 1995), Australia, Norfolk Island (Streimann, 2002), Macquarie Island and New Zealand.

D.T. Holyoak