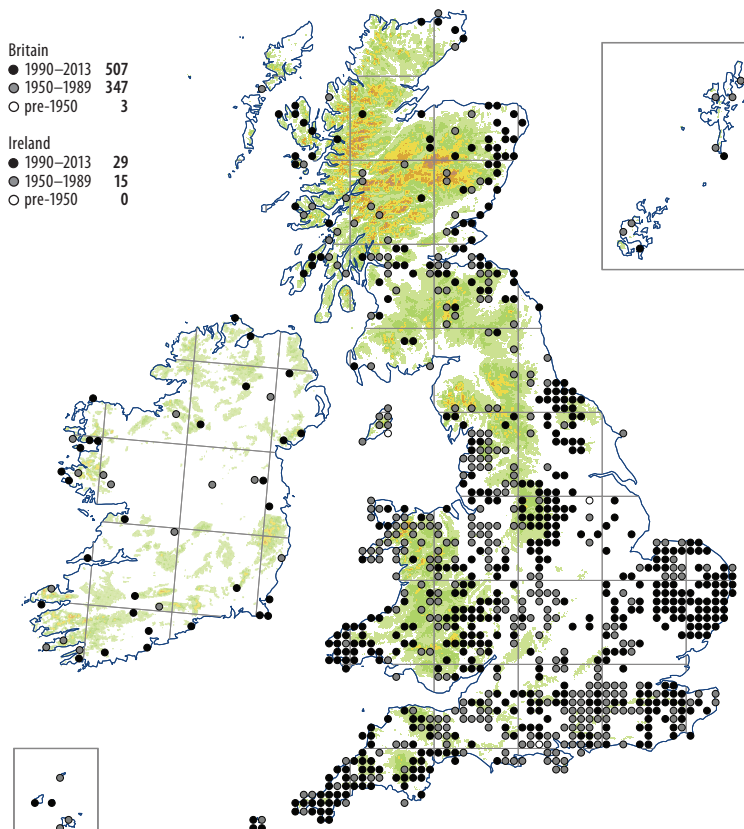


Bryum subapiculatum



Occurs on sandy or peaty non-calcareous disturbed soil in places with partly bare ground, such as on heathland (e.g. on molehills or the sides of paths), on and above cliffs, on acid sand dunes and in arable fields. It is absent from large areas of moorland and generally avoids peaty soils unless they are subject to major disturbance such as forestry operations, ploughing, fire or turf-stripping. Preston *et al.* (2010) found that it was rare or scarce in most types of arable fields, but frequent in those on more acid soils. Altitudinal range: 0–470 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional or frequent, mature in late spring. Rhizoidal tubers are frequent, sometimes abundant. Bulbils and axillary gemmae are lacking; the protonema is transient, and protonemal gemmae are produced (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

A member of the '*Bryum erythrocarpum* complex', not clearly distinguished from *B. rubens* in Britain and Ireland until the revision by Crundwell & Nyholm (1964), and therefore greatly under-recorded in the past. Like other small tuber-bearing species of *Bryum* it is still often overlooked. Occasional populations with yellow or orange tubers are also prone to be misidentified as *B. tenuisetum*.

European Temperate. Known in Europe from W Iceland, C Norway and S Sweden southwards to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, eastwards into Russia (Leningrad Province: Zolotov, 2007; Astrakhan Province: Suragina *et al.*, 2002). Macaronesia (Azores, Canary Islands). Recorded elsewhere in Israel, Sri Lanka, Rodrigues, southern Africa, N, C and S America, New Guinea and New Zealand.

D.T. Holyoak

