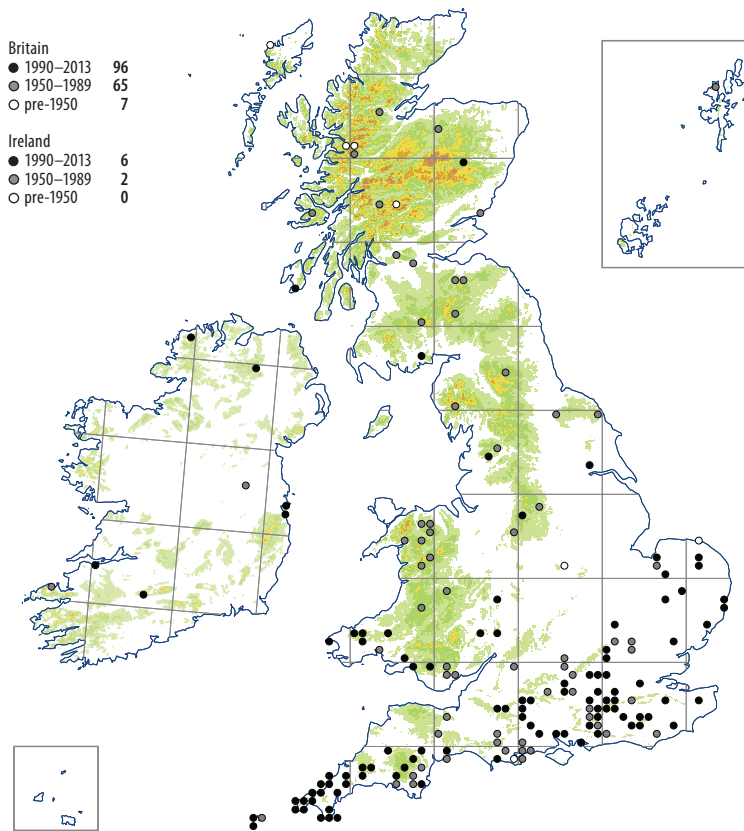


## Bryum bornholmense



Unlike related species, this is not a plant of arable fields, but occurs on sandy or peaty soils on heathland, particularly after burning, or in acid woods (Crundwell & Whitehouse, 2001). There are a number of records by lakes, reservoirs or ponds, and on the remote island of North Rona it has been collected from seal wallows which are churned into mud in winter (Crundwell & Whitehouse, 2001). Several records refer to disturbance of the substrate, which may reflect its inability to compete with other plants. It seems to be rather strictly calcifuge, and this is shown by characteristic associates such as *Campylopus pyriformis*, *Ceratodon purpureus* and *Dicranella heteromalla*. References to its occurrence on calcareous soils (e.g. Crundwell & Nyholm, 1964; Nyholm, 1993) are based on misidentified *B. rubens*. Altitudinal range: 0–535 m.

Diocious, less often synoious, rarely autoicous; capsules are occasional, mature in spring. Rhizoidal tubers are scarce to abundant (the species cannot be reliably identified without them). Bulbils and axillary gemmae are lacking; the protonema is transient, and protonemal gemmae are produced (Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

Crundwell & Whitehouse (2001) reappraised the identification characters and records described by Crundwell & Nyholm (1964). Like other small tuber-bearing species of *Bryum* it is still often overlooked and hence under-recorded. It is also prone to misidentification because of similarity to some forms of the very variable *B. rubens*, but DNA sequence data appear to confirm that they are distinct species (Holyoak & Pedersen, 2007: 116).

European Temperate. Confirmed records in Europe are from S Norway and S Sweden southwards to France (Calvados) and Greece. Elsewhere it has been confirmed only from the Canary Islands. Many other reports (from Europe and N America) do not use the revised identification criteria set out by Crundwell & Whitehouse (2001). Figures of tubers in recent literature from Spain and the Nordic countries suggest *B. rubens* is still being misidentified as this species.

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