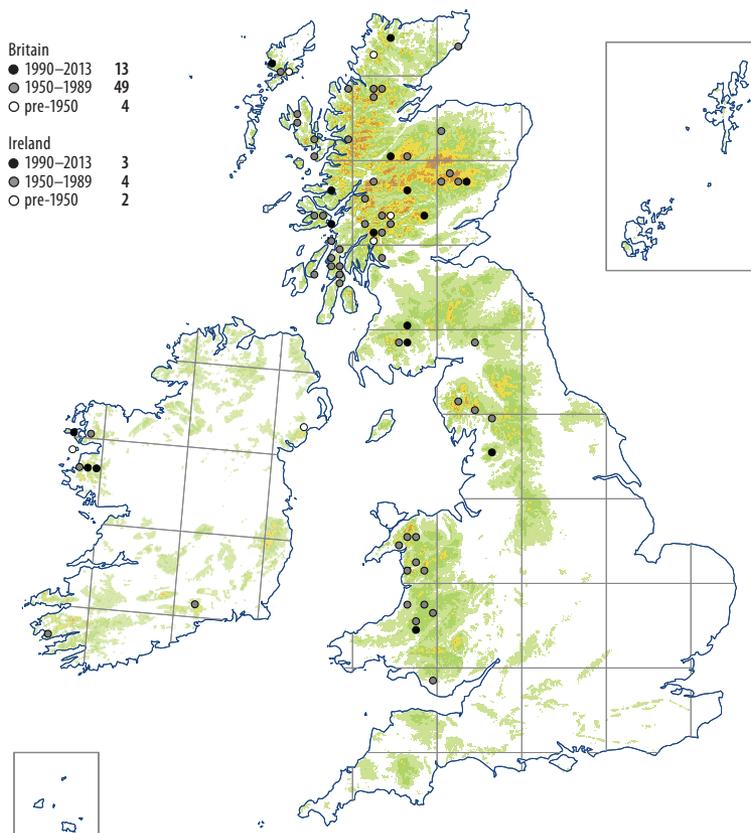


## Bryum riparium



An uncommon acidophile that is mostly restricted to the banks and detritus of upland streams, rivers and ditches and to wet rocks (including gullies and flushed ledges on montane crags and a high sea cliff), growing on soil, sand, rocks and in rock crevices. It is sometimes located by searching on recent landslips in the uplands. Several records are from soils or rocks poor in bases (Mweelrea Grit and other sandstones, quartzite, slate, schist and other metamorphic rocks). It occurs mainly in regions with high rainfall, in situations that tend to remain damp even in dry weather, e.g. on sheltered banks of montane gullies, at edges of hill streams (including the upper part of the inundation zone), or on flushed montane ledges. Associated species include *Nardia scalaris*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Scapania undulata*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Dichodontium palustre*, *D. pellucidum* and *Hyocomium armoricum*. There are two records

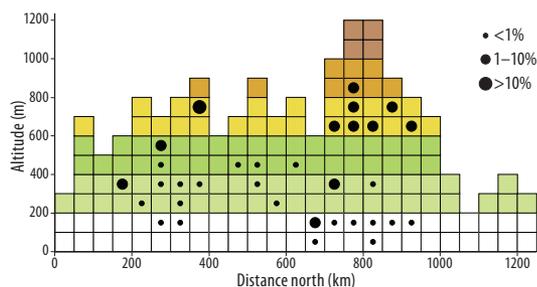
of atypical habitats in Scotland, one from a stubble field (Whitehouse, 1963), the other of a single tuft growing on mud in a bark crevice of a fallen oak where it lay across a narrow animal track (Preston, 2008). Altitudinal range: 5–750 m.

There has been an apparent decrease in occurrence, but many of the records during the 1960s and 1970s were due to the expertise of H.L.K. Whitehouse and the decline may not be real.

Dioicous, only female plants are known; Whitehouse (1963) was able to find gametangia on 14 of 24 specimens; capsules are therefore unknown. Rhizoidal tubers are abundant. Bulbils and axillary gemmae are absent, and protonemal gemmae are also apparently absent.

Although collected in Ireland in 1885, *Bryum riparium* was not generally recognised as distinct from *B. mildeanum* until revised by Whitehouse (1963). Like other tuber-bearing mosses it is probably somewhat under-recorded. It is less likely to be recorded in stubble fields now, as there is much less arable cultivation than formerly in N and W Britain.

Hyperoceanic Temperate. Known in continental Europe outside Britain and Ireland only from W Norway and Austria (Kärnten: Köckinger *et al.*, 2008). Elsewhere recorded from Turkey (Nyholm, 1993) and eastern N America (North Carolina).



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