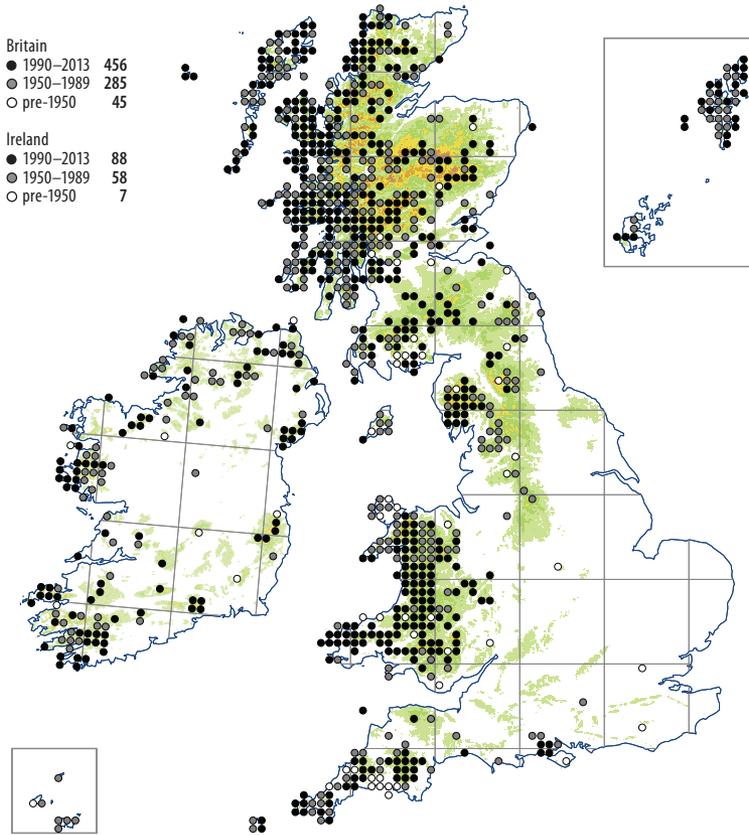


Bryum alpinum



A moss of wet or intermittently flushed rocks, thin soil over rock and partly bare soil. Common habitats are rocks within the inundation zones of streams and rivers and on their banks, on the margins of lakes and reservoirs, in quarries, on sea cliffs, beside paths, on roadside banks, on sloping rock exposures and on peaty moorlands. It is commonest in open sunny places on gently sloping or near-horizontal substrates that are mildly acid or circumneutral, with sparse vegetation cover. It apparently avoids limestone, occurring over quartzite, granite, slates and similar rocks, often in exposed coastal localities that receive salt spray, as above sea cliffs. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent (in some populations) to rare, mature in summer. Tubers are usually present on rhizoids of tomentum low on older stems. Bulbils and filiform

axillary gemmae are absent; the protonema is transient, and protonemal gemmae are produced (Whitehouse, 1987; Pressel *et al.*, 2007).

Typical plants are easy to identify, but forms growing where wet or inundated may have shorter blunt leaves and resemble *Bryum muehlenbeckii* or *B. gemmiparum*. Better coverage since the 1991–1994 Atlas has resulted in numerous additional records in W and N Britain and especially in Ireland; there is no evidence that this represents a genuine increase in occurrence.

European Temperate. The range in Europe extends from the Faeroes, Norway (mainly southwards from C Norway, with few coastal records further north) and C Sweden southwards to the Mediterranean region and eastwards to the Caucasus. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. Elsewhere it occurs in N and C Asia, N, C and S America, Uganda, Madagascar and southern Africa.

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