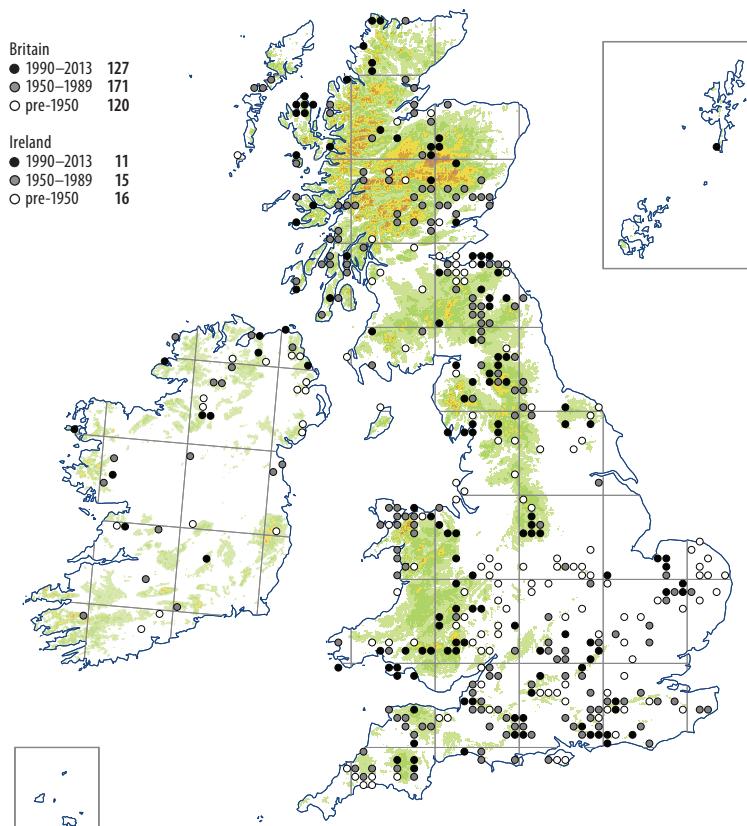
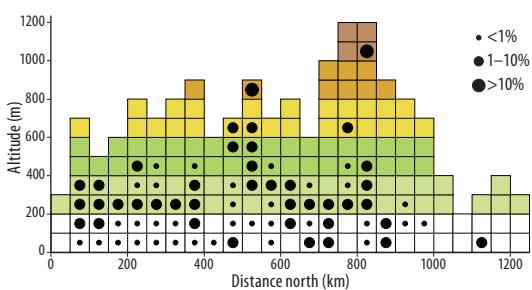


## Rhodobryum roseum



A stoloniferous perennial that grows on well-drained soil which is usually calcareous, in the open but sometimes in light shade e.g. of open woodland. It is found in grassland (often in the shelter of vascular plants on ant-hills in chalk and limestone grassland), on sand dunes and in dune slacks, in open woodland on light soils, on lightly wooded banks, in gullies, on rock ledges, among stones on grassy hillsides and (formerly) on soil-capped walls. Altitudinal range: 5–820 m.

Modern finds are greatly outnumbered by old records, at least in the lowlands of C and S England, giving clear evidence of a long-term decline of the species; this is supported by a statistical decline in records since 1990. These losses may be due to agricultural improvement and degradation of natural grassland habitats, reduction in grazing pressure and perhaps widespread eutrophication.



The decline in Carmarthenshire has been attributed to mechanised verge cutting and eutrophication, as most lane banks where *Rhodobryum roseum* once grew are now too rank for most of the year (Bosanquet *et al.*, 2005).

Dioicous; capsules are rare, maturing from autumn to winter. Tubers, bulbils and filiform axillary gemmae are absent. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Pressel *et al.*, 2007). Patches spread clonally by underground stolons.

The closely related *R. ontariense* (Kindb.) Kindb. might possibly occur in Britain, although it has a more southern and continental distribution in Europe (Iwatsuki & Koponen, 1972; Orbán & Pócs, 1976; Frahm, 1979) and has not been detected in specimens studied.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. The range in Europe extends from Iceland and N Fennoscandia to N Spain, the Balkans and the Caucasus. Turkey. Elsewhere it is known in N, C, and E Asia, Japan and north-western N America (Alaska, British Columbia).

D.T. Holyoak