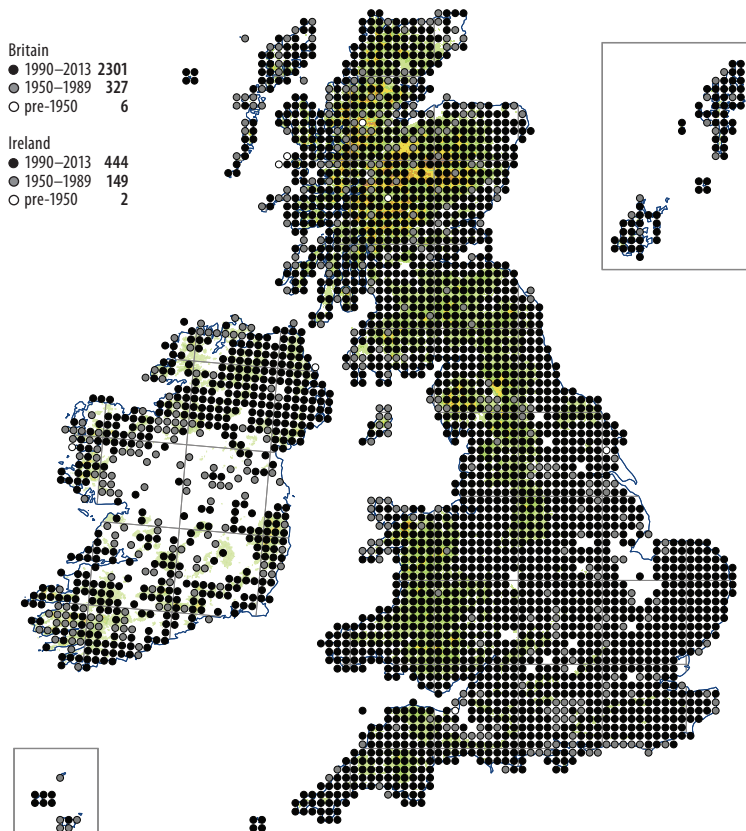


Mnium hornum



One of the commonest and most characteristic mosses of non-calcareous woodlands. It grows, often in extensive patches, on humus, acid clay and somewhat peaty soils on the woodland floor, about tree bases and on old logs and stumps, and on soil-covered rocks. Its associates include many other common woodland species, such as *Pellia epiphylla*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Fissidens taxifolius* and *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. In more humid woodlands, and especially in the west, it may ascend some distance up tree trunks and along large mossy branches, often with *Dicranum scoparium*. On calcareous soils it is limited to rotting wood and pockets of leached ground. It is not confined to mature woodlands, occurring on sheltered hedgebanks, lanesides and stream banks where there is some shelter or shade, and it is also recorded from tussocks in wet woodland and rough acid grasslands and marshes. In upland areas it is

widespread on rock ledges, ravine slopes, peaty moorland banks, hummocks in mires and in hollows on blocky ground. Altitudinal range: 0–975 m.

Its ubiquitous occurrence is evident from the map. The intensively cultivated fenlands of eastern England are perhaps the only genuine gap in its range.

Dioicous; capsules are common, maturing from late spring to summer. Protonemal gemmae are reported by Pressel *et al.* (2007).

European Temperate. W and C Europe north to Iceland, N Norway and NW Russia, but rare towards the Arctic, east to Ukraine and Romania, southwards to the Mediterranean region, but rare or absent in the lowlands there. Macaronesia, N Africa (Algeria, Tunisia). Turkey, Caucasus, eastwards to Kazakhstan. Eastern Asia. Eastern N America.

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