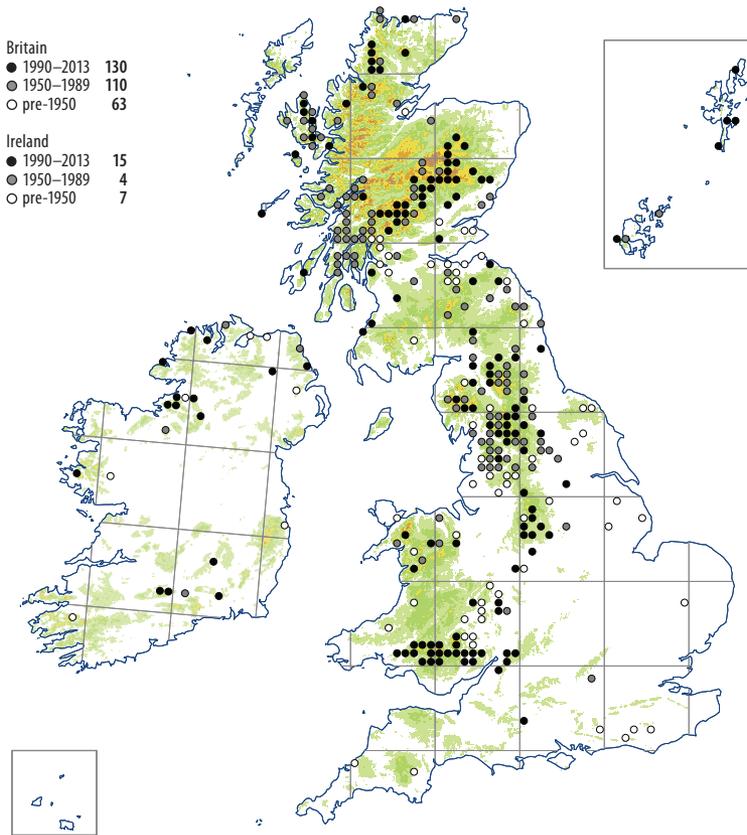


Mnium marginatum



Characteristically found over limestone and other base-rich rocks, this species occurs in rock crevices, on ledges and on soil-covered boulders. Associates on limestone include *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Orthothecium intricatum*, while on damper sandstone crags it has been found with *Amphidium mougeotii* and *Anoetangium aestivum*. It is shade-tolerant and is found in rocky woodland and wooded stream banks and gorges, but it also occurs in more open places on limestone pavement, rocky slopes and crags. There are a few records from earthy banks in lowland woodland, including beech. A less common but equally distinctive habitat is on damp sand and alluvium on the banks of streams and rivers, typically in their middle reaches where there is occasionally flooding by base-rich water. Altitudinal range: 15–1160 m.

The high proportion of older records in the uplands of N England should not be interpreted as a decline, but is more probably due to recent under-recording there. However there are some losses of long-standing in the lowlands, especially in the east of its range.

Usually synoicous, rarely dioicous; capsules are frequent, mature in early summer.

Dioicous plants (var. *dioicum*) have a strong tendency to occur on sandy or silty soil on stream banks, but the habitat difference is not a clear distinction, as the typical synoicous form (var. *marginatum*) also occurs in this habitat. Var. *dioicum* is rarely recorded and may be overlooked. It is not mapped separately here.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. N and C Europe, north to Iceland, N Scandinavia and Arctic Russia, scarce southwards in the mountains of the Mediterranean region. N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, south to India and Taiwan, and in C America to Guatemala. Hawaii.

T.L. Blockeel

