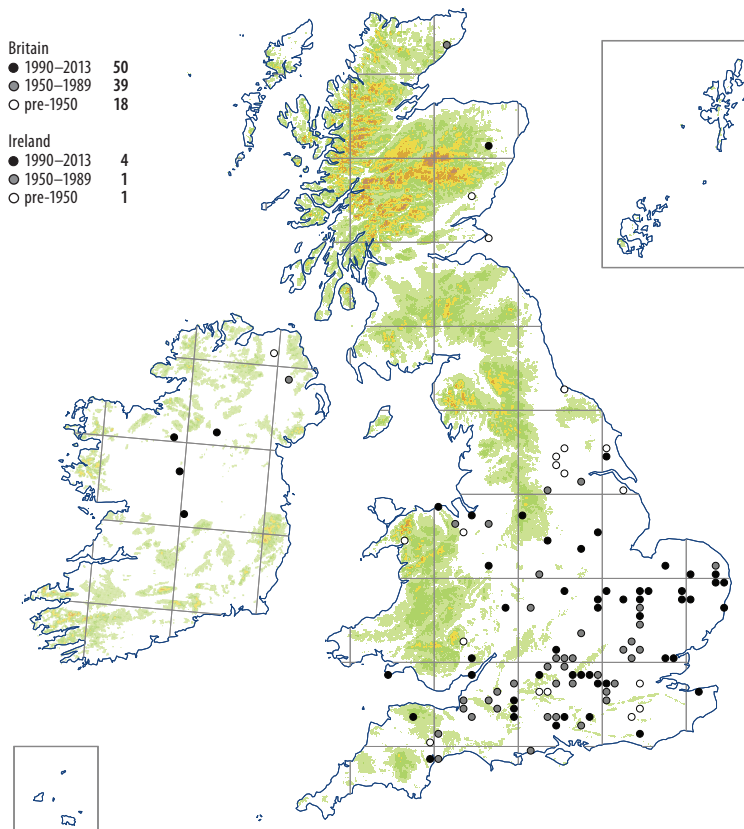


Hygroamblystegium humile



A moss of muddy and usually nutrient-rich habitats, often occurring only in small quantity. It is typically found on wet soil or silt among grass or herbs in marshy ground, reed swamps, fens and wet pastures, or under trees and other vegetation by streams, rivers, ditches and open water. It has also been recorded on the stems of reeds and other tall vegetation. A number of its English sites are in old gravel pits. Other occasional habitats are varied and include concrete and masonry by weirs and canals, rotten wood and litter in wet woodland and on river banks, and exceptionally on soil in a wet stubble field. It can be persistent at individual sites: Gardiner (1981) noted its presence by the River Thames near Kew for at least a century. Altitudinal range: 0–215 m.

Probably under-recorded, because it often occurs in unglamorous places and is similar to *Hygroamblystegium varium* and *Leptodictyum riparium*.

Circumpolar Temperate. Europe north to C Scandinavia and Arctic Russia, rare in the Mediterranean region. Madeira, Turkey, Iran. Widely distributed but generally uncommon in the Northern Hemisphere south to S China, C America and Haiti. Disjunct in New Guinea.

T.L. Blockeel

Autoicous; capsules are frequently present, mature in summer.

