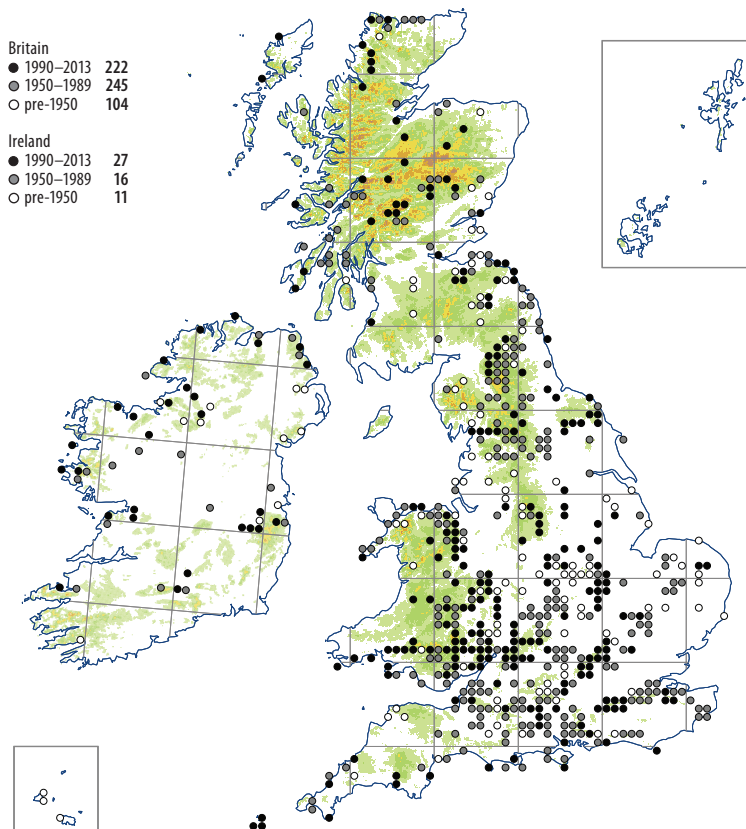


Brachythecium glareosum



This species occurs in a variety of habitats, most characteristically on dry calcareous substrates. It is most frequent in chalk or limestone turf, on banks, broken ground and in disused quarries. Its occurrences are rather scattered and it is by no means a constant species in these habitats. It is frequently found on rather disturbed ground, such as calcareous rubble and quarry spoil, and occasionally on concrete and walls. Commonly encountered associates include *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Homalothecium lutescens* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. It tolerates some shading, and is found on dry banks at the edge of woodlands, on tracks in open woodland, and more rarely on stones and tree bases. In coastal habitats it is occasional on blown sand and mossy turf on sand dunes. It extends into upland and montane sites, especially on rocky banks and gullies on limestone and other strongly basic rocks. Altitudinal range: 5–1050 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in winter.

There is a large proportion of older records, doubtless due to its frequent occurrence in disturbed and therefore temporary sites. There is no statistical evidence of significant decline in recent decades.

Eurasian Boreo-temperate. Throughout Europe north to Iceland, N Fennoscandia and the N Urals, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey, Iran, Caucasus to Kyrgyzstan, China and Japan, but not in Siberia or the Russian Far East.

R.D. Porley, rev. T.L. Blockeel

