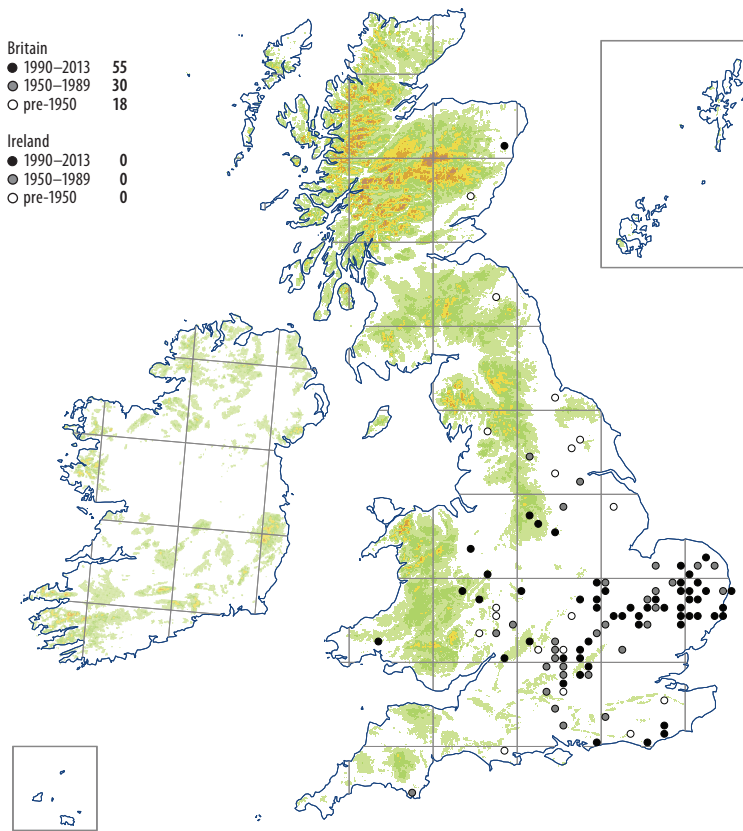


# Brachythecium salebrosum



The most characteristic habitat of this species is on rotting wood and stumps in wet shady woodlands, especially in alder and willow carr, where a common associate is *Brachythecium rutabulum*. It also occurs as an epiphyte on the trunks and branches of trees such as ash, elder, poplar and sallow in drier habitats in hedgerows, copses and deciduous woodland. Less common habitats include wet *Molinia* grassland, wet ditch banks, bare soil, leaf litter, tree bases and tracks in damp woodland, and on rock. It has also been recorded on stone in disused railway cuttings, on clinker in open woodland, and exceptionally on sandy loam in a stubble field. Altitudinal range: 0–300 m.

The species has a continental distribution and in Britain is often found only as isolated colonies or single patches; many

of its occurrences, especially towards the west, are probably temporary events.

Autoicous, rarely synoicous; capsules are frequent to common, mature in winter.

It was commonly confused with *B. mildeanum* until M.O. Hill pointed out the differences (Corley & Hill, 1981, p. 137). It is probably also overlooked as *B. rutabulum*. Older records have been mapped only if they have been confirmed from voucher specimens, and the map should contain few errors.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. In Europe from Iceland and N Fennoscandia south to the northern deciduous forest zone and the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East, Caucasus, Iran, Himalaya and across much of Asia to Japan. In N America south to Colorado and Tennessee. C and S Africa. SE Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Kerguelen Islands, Macquarie Island.

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