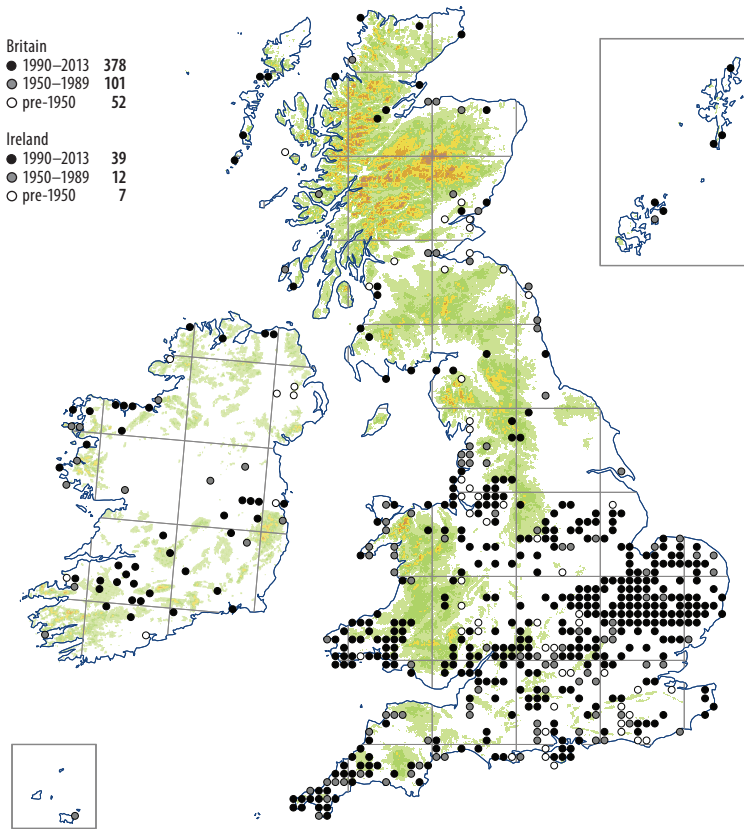


# Brachythecium mildeanum



A species primarily of damp, open, usually base-rich ground. It occurs amongst grasses around ponds and pools, on river banks, in tall-herb fen, and on damp, clayey woodland tracks, often associated with *Calliergonella cuspidata*. In old water meadows it is sometimes found with *Oxyrrhynchium speciosum*. In places it is locally abundant in seasonally damp dune slacks, typically with *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *Drepanocladus aduncus* and *D. polygamus*. However, in many districts it is more common as a weedy colonist of open ground in man-made habitats such as gravelly tracks, roadsides, old tarmac, and car parks (hence the informal name of 'car-park moss'), also on railway ballast and disturbed sandy soil by the coast, sometimes where water collects during wet periods but also on dry ground. Altitudinal range: 0–370 m.

*Brachythecium mildeanum* has clearly benefited from the increased availability of old tarmac, and its frequent colonisation of weedy habitats may be a recent phenomenon, though its occurrence in such places may have been overlooked in the past.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional, mature in winter.

It has often been confused with *B. salebrosum* and *B. rutabulum*, some forms of the latter being very similar to it in the field. Its presence in ruderal habitats has not been widely appreciated, and the areas in which it has been well recorded are evident from the map. It is clearly under-recorded elsewhere in lowland regions.

Circumpolar Temperate. Widespread in Europe, including Iceland, but rare or absent north of the Arctic Circle and absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Azores. Turkey, Israel, Iran. Widespread in temperate and boreal Asia, north to the Arctic. Western N America. Reported from C Africa. Australia (probably introduced).

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