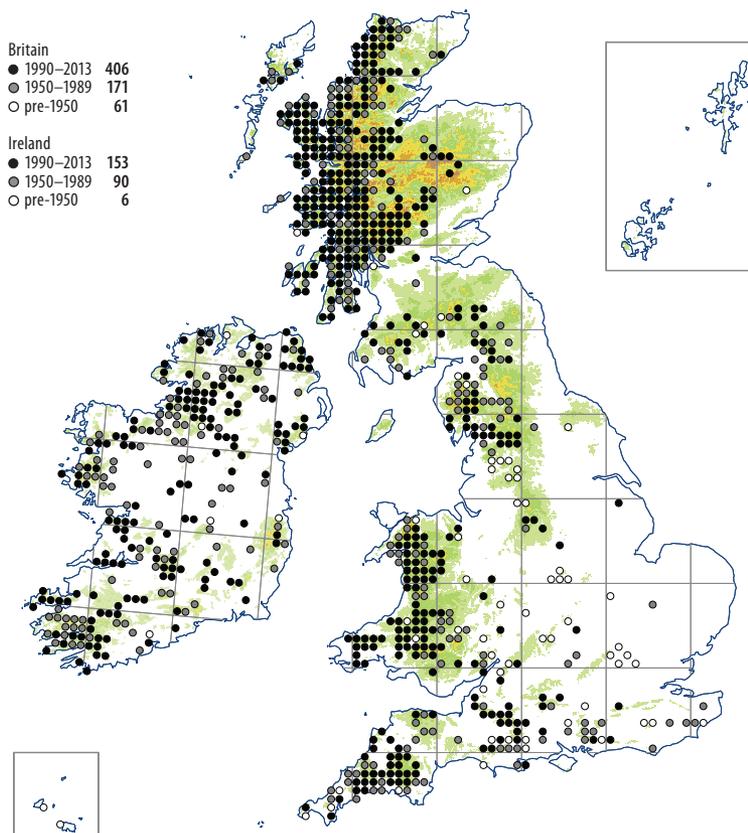


# Loeskeobryum brevirostre

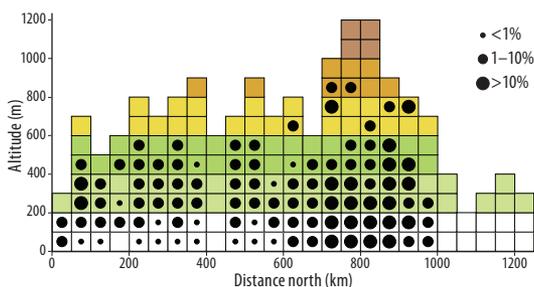


This species is most often found on calcareous rock or soil, and on other base-rich substrates. It is locally frequent on shaded boulders and soil banks in mixed deciduous woodlands (mainly hazel, ash, elm, oak and birch) associated with *Galium odoratum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Isoetecium alopecuroides* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*, and on the bases and lower trunks of hazel and ash trees, particularly in humid habitats such as shaded gullies and waterfalls. It also occurs on damp ungrazed ledges on cliffs, associated with *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, and on shaded limestone pavement. More rarely it grows on logs and wall tops, on shaded banks in wooded lanes, in scrub on chalk, in flushes in moorland, and in damp fen woodlands. In western districts it is less demanding of basic substrates, and may occur in acid woodland, in conifer plantations over

cut peat, and even in *Molinia* grassland. In extremely humid sites it sometimes ascends the trunks of trees as an epiphyte. Altitudinal range: 5–760 m.

It has decreased in lowland areas in eastern and southern England from destruction of habitat, but perhaps also from former high levels of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution. However it has considerable colonising ability, even though it is most often found in permanent habitats. It appeared in Wicken Fen in 1974 (Lock, 1990) and has recently been found in secondary woodland at two post-industrial sites in Derbyshire (in one case on the site of old railway sidings) and in scrub on a colliery tip in the Rhondda Valley, Glamorgan. It has colonised numerous localities in the Dutch polders (Bremer & Ott, 1990).

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in winter.



European Temperate. W and C Europe from N Spain and Corsica north to the Faeroes and S Scandinavia (but not Finland), becoming scattered eastwards to European Russia (very rare), the Balkans and Crimea. Azores, N Africa (Algeria), Turkey, Caucasus. Asian Far East, China (including Taiwan), Japan. Eastern N America, C America, West Indies.

H.J.B. Birks, rev. T.L. Blockeel