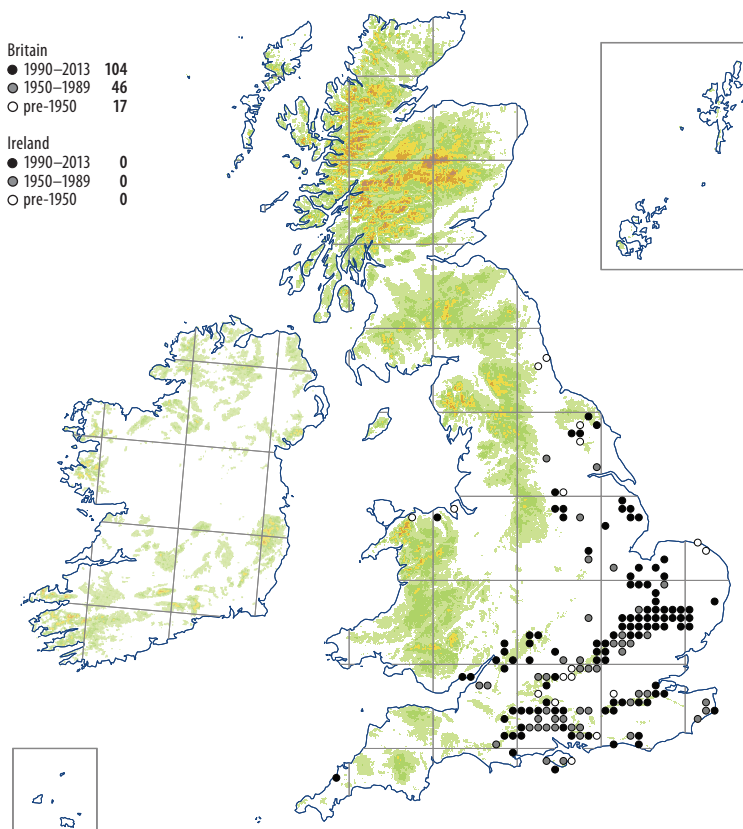


## Microbryum floerkeanum



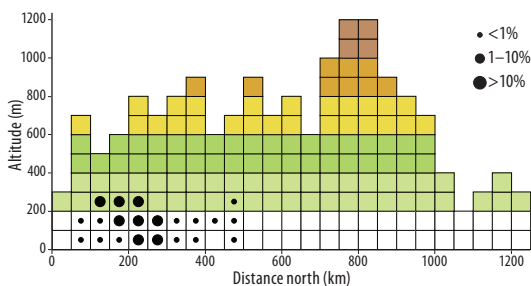
A minute ephemeral of disturbed calcareous ground, mainly on soils derived from chalk or chalky clay but also occasionally found over harder limestones and on circumneutral clays on other substrates, including Coal Measures. It is most frequent in stubble fields, having a 17% frequency in the *Barbula unguiculata*-*Bryum klinggraeffii* assemblage described by Preston *et al.* (2010). This assemblage has an easterly distribution and is characteristic of arable fields with basic soils. As well as the defining species of that assemblage, associates include *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella varia*, *Microbryum davallianum* and *Phascum cuspidatum*. Much more unusual is a record of it as an associate of *Didymodon tomaculosus* in a stubble field on clay. Less common habitats include chalk pits, bare soil and ant-hills in chalk and limestone grassland, a calcareous clay ditch bank, cultivated garden soil and woodland rides. It

varies in quantity from year to year, being more abundant after a wet summer (Swinscow, 1959). Altitudinal range: 0–220 m.

It is less abundant than formerly because of more intensive cultivation and early ploughing of arable land, though probably under-recorded to some extent because of its small size and restricted season.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, maturing earlier than many autumnal ephemerals, from late August to November, occasionally into winter.

European Temperate. W, S and C Europe north to S Scandinavia, Poland and Latvia, east to Romania, absent from much of the Mediterranean region. N Africa (Algeria). Turkey, Israel. Rare in N America (Ontario).



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