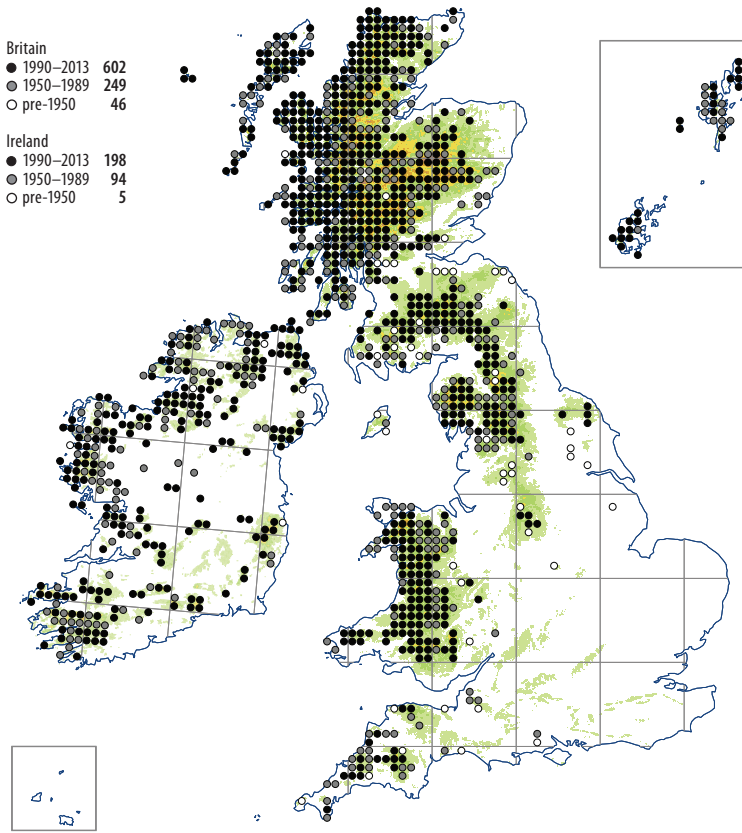


# Breutelia chrysocoma



A handsome hygrophilous species forming conspicuous tufts on unshaded or lightly shaded, wet or flushed surfaces in the upland zone. It is common in a wide range of habitats including damp heath, wet moorland, grassy slopes, streamsides, banks and cliff ledges. In Scotland it extends into birch and birch-hazel woodland. Its most characteristic habitat is acid grassland flushed by slightly basic water, with associates such as *Carex panicea*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Scorpidium revolvens*; only in the very wettest regions does it extend to ombrotrophic mires. It achieves maximum luxuriance in well-lit dripping ravines with mildly basic rock outcrops, where it is commonly associated with calcicoles such as *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Tortella tortuosa*. In the drier parts of its range it is more restricted to base-rich habitats, and occurs at the edge of (or on tussocks in) calcareous flushes and in moist limestone grassland, for

example on humus-covered ledges and on steep slopes sheltered from direct sunlight. Altitudinal range: 0–810 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, apparently because of a shortage of males, mature in autumn. Bedford (1940) found that fruiting plants always grew within 2.5 cm of male plants.

Hyperoceanic Temperate. A mainly northern oceanic species, in the Faeroes and SW Norway, and with scattered populations in northern Spain, the Pyrenees, Corsica, Brittany, C France (Massif Central), Switzerland, Belgium (Ardennes, extinct) and Westphalia (extinct). Recently reported from the Azores (Frahm, 2011), where previously only the endemic *Breutelia azorica* (Mitt.) Cardot was thought to be present.

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