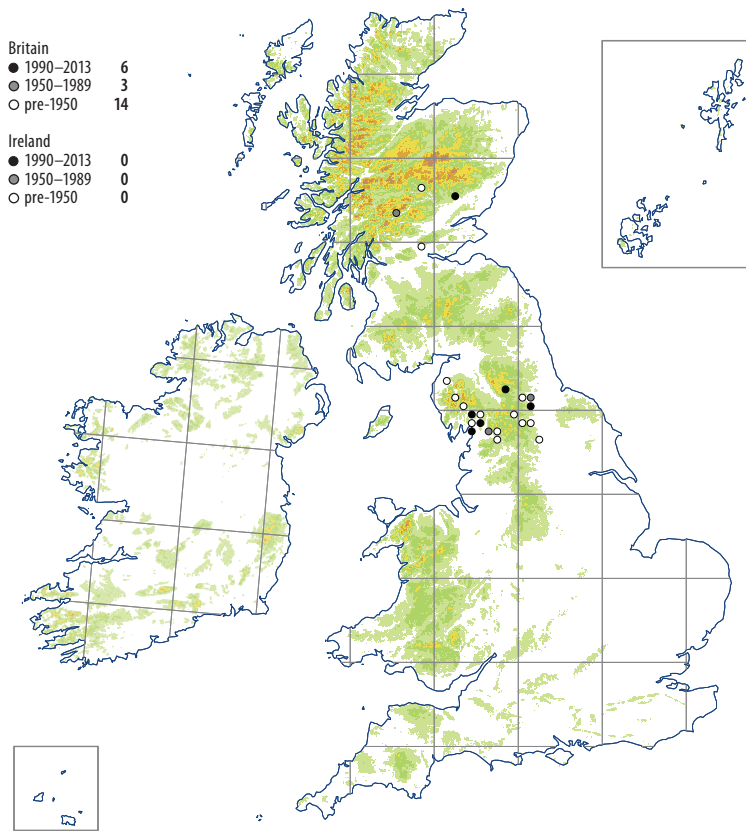


Homomallium incurvatum



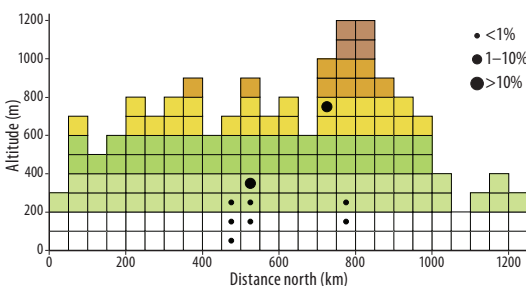
Typically found on small stones, more rarely on larger boulders, in woodland and on river banks, but also occurring on stones in walls and on natural rock ledges, and even on soil. One of its strongest extant populations is on wooded terraces on a stretch of south-facing limestone crag. It occurs in light to moderate shade, on substrates that are neither wet nor subject to prolonged desiccation, typically where ground vegetation is sparse. Though commonly found on limestone, it has also been recorded on other basic rocks. Associates include *Porella platyphylla*, *Cirriphyllum crassinervium*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Didymodon sinuosus*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Isothecium alopecuroides*, *I. myosuroides*, *Neckera complanata*, *Rhynchostegium murale*, *Schistidium elegantulum* and *Sciuro-hypnum populeum*.
 Altitudinal range: 30–285 m.

It was thought to have declined catastrophically in the 20th century, but a survey in 2005 and 2006 revealed that it was still present in several of its old localities (Blockeel, 2007). The lack of recent records may be due to lack of familiarity among bryologists. However it has not been found at some old sites that have been revisited, and there may have been some real decline. If so, the causes are unclear, as habitats where the species still occurs are often unremarkable.

Autoicous; capsules are common, mature June to August.

Homomallium incurvatum is easily overlooked, in spite of the presence of capsules, and slender forms are easily passed over as *Amblystegium serpens*. Some records have proved to be misidentifications of *Hypnum cupressiforme*. Most erroneous records have been eliminated from the map, but not all of the older records have been verified from specimens.

Eurasian Boreal-montane. *H. incurvatum* is one of several bryophytes that are common in parts of continental Europe but very rare in Britain. It is widespread in the upper forest zone of all major European mountain ranges and in the southern boreal zone of N Europe to north of the Arctic Circle in Norway, south to the mountains of the northern Mediterranean region. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and east to China, Japan and the Russian Far East. Reported from Kentucky in N America.



T.L. Blockeel