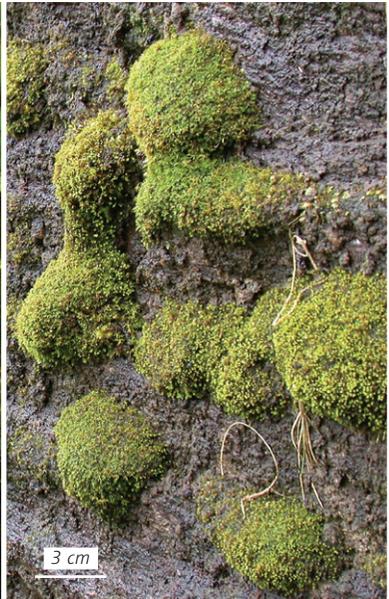
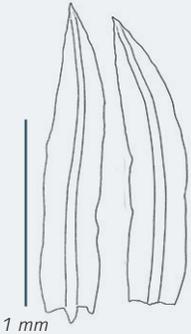
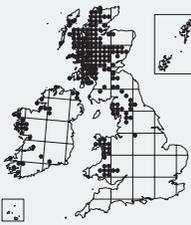


Anoetangium aestivum

Summer-moss

Key 210

**Identification**

This species forms conspicuous, bright green cushions and turfs several centimetres in depth, although individual shoots are only 1–1.5 cm long. The lower part of the shoots is pale yellow-brown with a felt of brown rhizoids. The leaves are 1–1.5 mm long, keeled and narrowly oblong to egg-shaped (4–6 times as long as wide), almost parallel-sided below, but taper gradually in the upper half to a sharp point. The nerve ends in or shortly below the leaf tip. Dry leaves become moderately crisped (each is spirally twisted, but not around the shoot). Under a hand lens, the leaf looks opaque because of the roughened cells (microscope), which also cause the bright colour. The elliptically shaped capsules are rare; they lack a peristome.

Similar species

A. aestivum often grows with *Amphidium mougeotii* (p. 641), which has more elongated leaves and is duller green. *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* (p. 447) has more pellucid leaves which are less crisped when dry, and is duller green. *Trichostomum brachydontium* (p. 433) is more robust, and the nerve is typically shortly excurrent as a stout, blunt point. *Molendoa warburgii* (p. 453) has a rounded leaf tip and does not usually form cushions. The leaves of *Barbula convoluta* (p. 454) are a very similar shape to those of *A. aestivum*, but *B. convoluta* grows in ruderal habitats, not on damp, base-rich rock in the hills.

Habitat

A typical member of an attractive community of small bryophytes in damp, slightly calcareous crevices and overhangs on siliceous rock faces in the uplands, frequently with *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Distichium capillaceum*, *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Tortella tortuosa* and others. In districts with high rainfall, it also ventures onto moist rock faces outside crevices, but cannot tolerate drought. Despite requiring some calcareous influence, it is usually absent from mossy crevices in limestone.