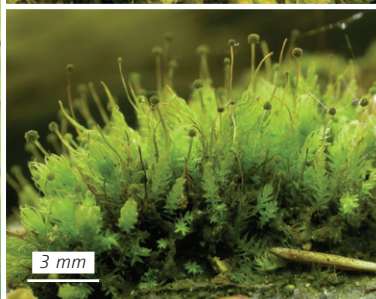
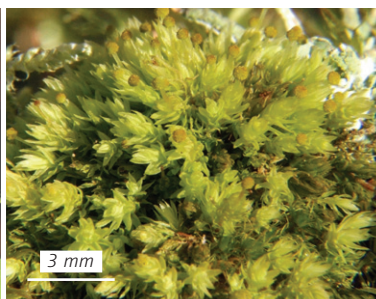
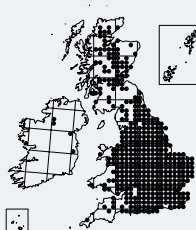


Aulacomnium androgynum

Drumsticks

Key 269



Identification *A. androgynum* forms small, pale, dull green tufts. Many shoots terminate in an elongated stalk with a ball of gemmae at the top. Shoots are 3–4 mm tall (excluding the elongated stalk and ball of gemmae). The leaves appress and overlap each other, are typically 1–2 mm long, and broadly spearhead-shaped, shortly pointed and not shiny. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species The gemmae on long stalks, coupled with its growing on dead wood distinguish *A. androgynum* from all other species. *A. palustre* (p. 625) occasionally bears gemmae on elongated stalks, but is a plant of wet, acidic ground. *Tetraphis pellucida* (p. 333) bears gemmae in a terminal cup, not on elongated stalks.

Habitat Nearly always grows on dead wood or on trees. *A. androgynum* is common in the east of England, but rare in the west, and very rare in Ireland.