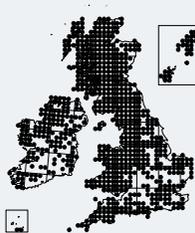


*Aulacomnium palustre*

Bog Bead-moss

Key 130, 164



**Identification** *A. palustre* forms tufts 3–12 cm tall, with pale yellow-green leaves that contrast strongly with the ginger-brown, felt-like rhizoids which cover the stem. Shoots occasionally terminate in an elongated stalk with a terminal cluster of gemmae. When dry, the leaves become somewhat crisped and twisted. The leaves are 4–6 mm long near the top of the shoot, but shorter below, spearhead-shaped, shortly pointed, matt and pale yellow-green. Curved, furrowed capsules 2.5 mm long are produced occasionally.

**Similar species** *A. androgynum* (p. 627) is a smaller (up to 2.5 cm tall) plant, which also produces gemmae on elongated stalks, but much more abundantly, and nearly always grows on dead wood or other plants. *Philonotis* species (pp. 633–639) have more slender shoots and more sharply pointed leaves. *Dicranum bergeri* (p. 381), a much rarer moss of bogs, is superficially rather similar, but darker green and has transversely undulate leaves.

**Habitat** Growing mainly in bogs and wet heaths, often forming substantial tufts or extensive carpets, especially on drier *Sphagnum* hummocks. Oddly, it has also been recorded in chalk grassland and woodland glades, and even occasionally on road verges.