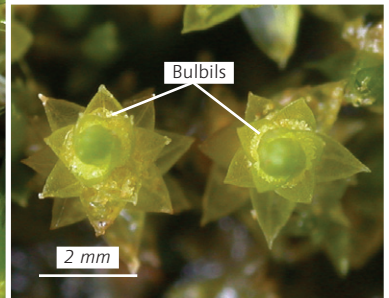
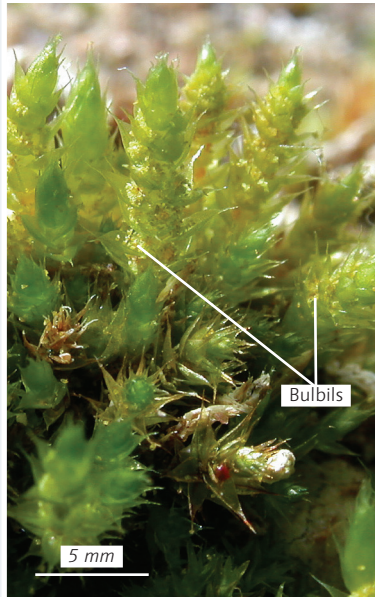
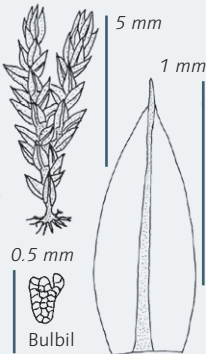
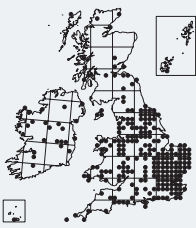


Bryum gemmiferum

Small-bud Bryum



Identification

This small moss, typically about 1 cm tall, grows as tufts and scattered shoots. The concave leaves are short (about 1.1–1.2 mm long) in relation to their width when compared with most other *Bryum* species, and shelter 20–30 small (0.1–0.16 mm long), pale yellowish-green (or sometimes – but not typically – orange or red) bulbils in the axils. These clusters of bulbils are sufficiently conspicuous to be visible from a few feet away. Pendulous, egg-shaped capsules 1.5 mm long develop occasionally.

Similar species

B. dichotomum (p. 595) has fewer bulbils (usually only 1–2) in each leaf axil, and these are larger, duller and darker than those of *B. gemmiferum*. Several other, rarer bulbilliferous *Bryum* species also occur (Smith, pp. 570–576). Bulbilliferous *Pohlia* species (pp. 606–607; Smith, pp. 601–609) differ in having leaves which are longer relative to their width than those of *B. gemmiferum*, and set more distantly on the stem.

Habitat

B. gemmiferum flourishes on well-drained, often sandy, but periodically wet soil, particularly river banks, by ponds and ditches, on mud at the margins of reservoirs, and in damp arable fields and quarries, etc.