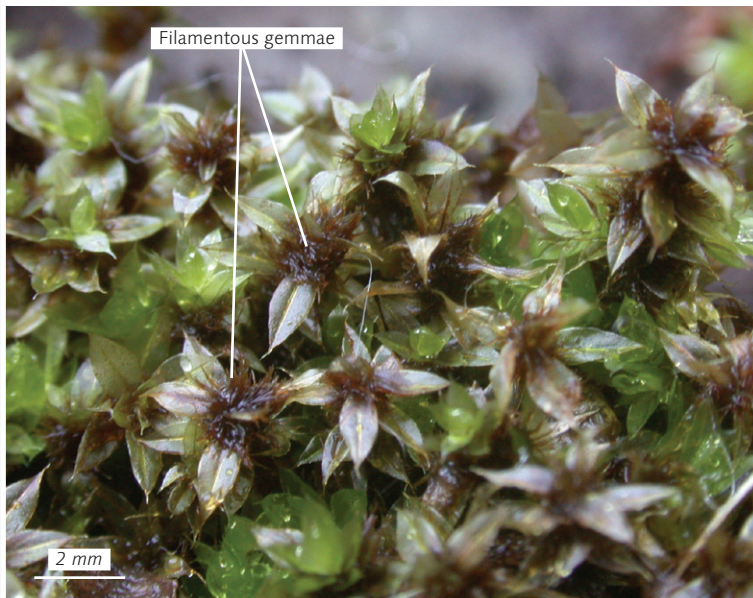
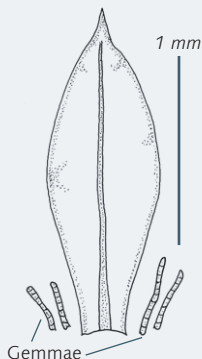
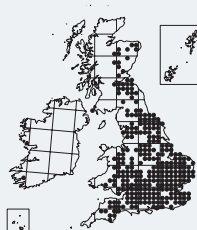


Bryum laevifilum

B. moravicum, *B. flaccidum*

Syed's Thread-moss

Key 270



Identification

At first glance, this moss looks much like *B. capillare* (p. 586), but closer inspection with a hand lens reveals many filamentous, brown (or green when young) gemmae in the leaf axils. Its leaves are about 1.75 mm long, and often rather widely spaced on the stem. Capsules have not been seen in Britain.

Similar species

B. capillare (p. 586) lacks filamentous gemmae in its leaf axils, and its leaves look less widely spaced, and are more strongly twisted when dry. Filamentous gemmae similar to those of *B. laevifilum* may abound in the leaf axils of *B. pallens* (p. 584), especially in densely tufted forms that grow in the uplands, but *B. pallens* grows on soil rather than trees, and is often pink. *B. pseudotriquetrum* (p. 592) also sometimes has filamentous, axillary gemmae. *B. subelegans* (Smith, p. 553) is very similar, but has strongly recurved leaf margins and is rare on calcareous rock on high ground; it is now thought to be a form of *B. pallens*.

Habitat

B. laevifilum is a lowland species, usually found on the trunks or branches of trees. More rarely it grows on rotten wood, soil or rocks.