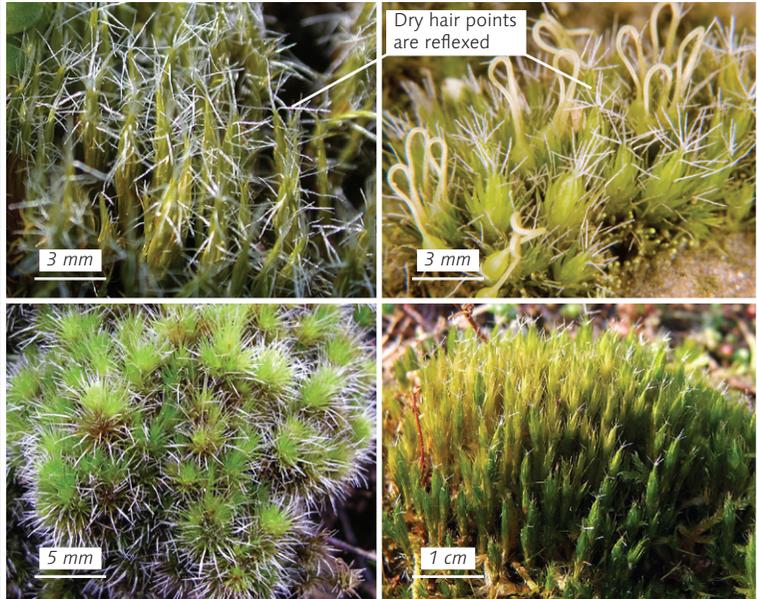


Campylopus introflexus

Heath Star-moss

Key 107



Identification This is an easily recognized, often abundant species. It forms dark green or almost black patches that look hoary when dry. Stems may grow to 5 cm long, but are usually much shorter. The leaves are 2.5–6.5 mm long, erect and straight when moist, and more appressed with the hair point often reflexed when dry. Leaves are relatively wide at the base or just above, with the nerve width variable from 30 to 70% of the leaf width and excurrent in a toothed, colourless hair point. Fertile plants are frequent, and the stems have swollen nodes at the inflorescences and slender sections in between. Capsules are common in the north and west, and are held on a strongly down-curved seta.

Similar species Only likely to be confused with the very scarce *C. pilifer* (p. 399), but *C. pilifer* has uniformly thick stems, whereas *C. introflexus* has shoots that often have thickened nodes up the stem. The hair points of the dry shoots in *C. introflexus* are also more often reflexed to a right angle than they are in *C. pilifer*. *C. introflexus* usually has a different habit and habitat; however, it may occasionally be necessary to cut leaf sections in order to confirm identity. Young plants of *C. introflexus* may lack hair points, be bright green, and can be confusing.

Habitat This is a pioneer species of bare peat after peat-cutting, burning, ploughing for forestry or ditching, and it can be very abundant in all these places. It may also grow on rotting logs and old fence posts, on thin soil at the edge of tracks, mine waste, shingle and rarely on roof tiles. *C. introflexus* may also abound on thatch. An introduced species first found in Britain in 1941, but now occurring all over the British Isles.