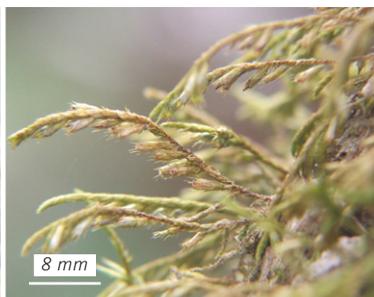
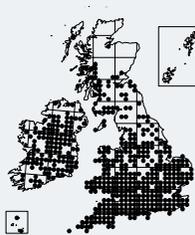


Cryphaea heteromalla

Lateral Cryphaea

Key 329



Identification The primary stems of *C. heteromalla* are tightly appressed to bark, whereas its more conspicuous secondary stems project stiffly away from it. Typical shoots grow to about 1.5 cm long. The leaves are 1–1.3 mm long, held close to the stems when dry, and spread over half their length, and an acute tip. Several capsules occur in close proximity to each other along just one side of the mature secondary stems. They are 2.5–3 mm long, and have a very short seta. The surrounding leaves almost overtop them; they are larger than the stem leaves and taper rather abruptly or more gradually to a very fine tip composed of the excurrent nerve.

Similar species *C. heteromalla* is distinctive. Its projecting stems are often best spotted by looking at the mossy branches of trees and shrubs in profile. Fruiting plants can only be confused with the closely related *Dendrocryphaea lamyana* (p. 673). *D. lamyana* is coarser, with stems usually longer (5–10 cm) and less branched, and curved rather than rigidly straight when dry. Its leaves are also more bluntly pointed than those of *C. heteromalla*, with margins that are plane rather than narrowly recurved towards the base, the lid of its capsules has a curved (not straight) beak, and the leaves around the base of the seta tend to have almost white rather than green margins. Young plants of *C. heteromalla* with only primary stems are easily confused with *Leskea polycarpa* (p. 689) but have more finely pointed leaves which lack the slight curve often found in *L. polycarpa*. It is wise to check such material microscopically.

Habitat *C. heteromalla* grows on the mossy bark of trees and shrubs in woodland, scrub and orchards. It is most luxuriant in moist, sheltered sites. It grows more rarely on rocks, stonework and concrete.