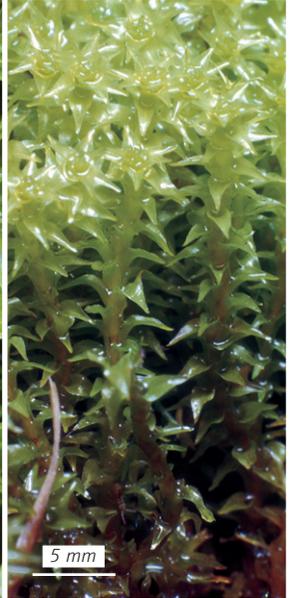
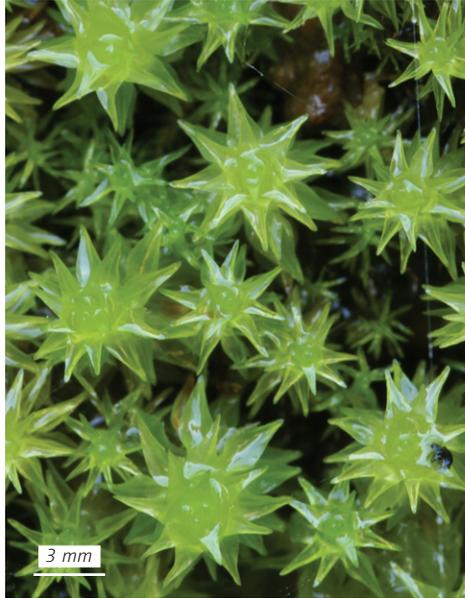
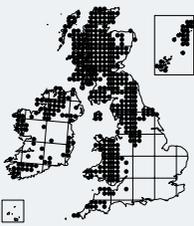


*Dichodontium palustre**Dicranella palustris*

Marsh Forklet-moss

Key 234



Identification Shoots of this distinctively light green species may grow to several centimetres in length, but small plants may barely reach 1 cm in height. The erect stems have leaves typically 2.5–3.5 mm long, with a broad base which sheaths the stem. The upper part of the leaf curves away from the stem, giving the shoots a characteristic appearance. The leaves taper gradually to a blunt tip and the narrow nerve extends to near the tip. The dark red, inclined capsules are only produced occasionally.

Similar species The leaves curving away from the stem and the colour make this one of the easier mosses to identify in the field and unlikely to be confused with other species. *D. pellucidum* (p. 361) is mid-green rather than yellow-green, and frequent on silty gravel and damp soil in the hills. The leaves of *Dicranella schreberiana* (p. 368) are not blunt-tipped.

Habitat Grows in a variety of wet habitats, including marshy ditches, flushed grassland and the edges of streams and stony flushes in northern and western Britain.