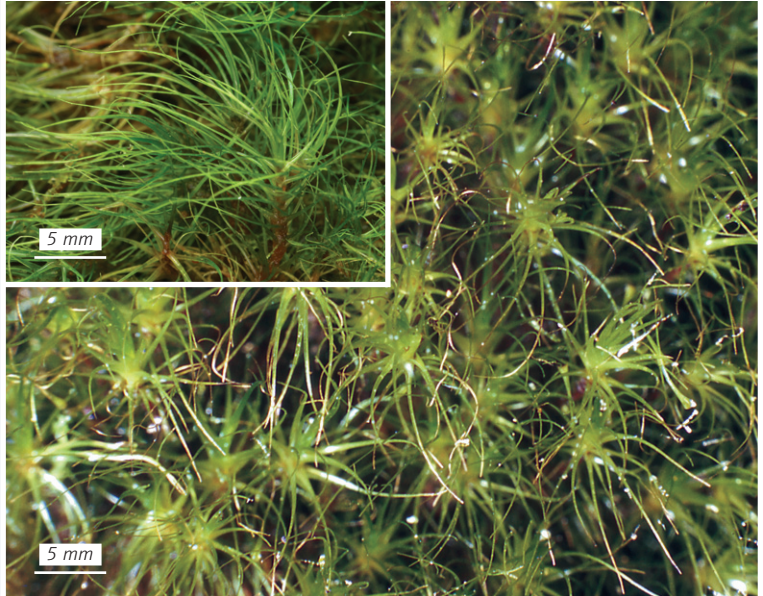
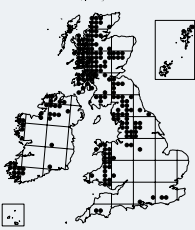


Dicranodontium denudatum

Beaked Bow-moss



Identification In glossy, yellow-green to mid-green cushions or spreading patches to 7 cm deep, with deciduous leaves often present on the surface and red rhizoids matting the lower part of the stems. The leaves are typically 5–8 mm long, erect to spreading, usually point in one direction when moist, and are wavy when dry. The leaves have a sheathing base that is egg-shaped and tapers into a long, fine point that is usually finely toothed. The nerve is longly excurrent, smooth at the back above and up to 50% of the width of the leaf base, though it is often rather poorly defined below. Capsules are very rare, erect and cylindrical, and usually with a strongly curved seta.

Similar species *D. denudatum* lacks the regularly curved leaves of *D. uncinatum* (p. 388) that all point in one direction, as well as the colourless patches near the nerve in the leaf base. *D. asperulum* (p. 389) differs in the strongly toothed leaf margins extending down to the base, although this can be hard to see with a hand lens. When present, the deciduous leaves are diagnostic. A form which used to be called var. *alpinum* often occurs in oceanic-montane heath, lacks deciduous leaves and can be very confusing. *D. denudatum* may also be confused with large, lax forms of *Campylopus flexuosus* (p. 395) which may also have deciduous leaves; these are usually darker, untidy plants, but can be difficult to identify.

Habitat A predominantly western species of rocks, logs, tree bases and peaty banks, usually in woodland, but also found in sheltered, montane heath. In more marginal sites it is always more frequent on rotting logs or stumps than in other habitats.