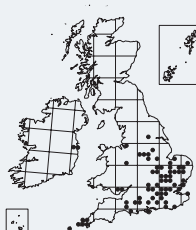


Didymodon australasiae var. *umbrosus**D. umbrosus*, *Trichostomopsis umbrosa*

Shady Beard-moss



Identification The shoots of this very small moss form pale green patches that are only 2–10 mm tall. Its leaves spread away from the stem when moist, with the upper leaves longer (about 2 mm) than the lower ones. The reflexed leaves may look as though they are flattened against the substrate. Capsules are not known in Britain.

Similar species The very rare *D. glaucus* (Smith, p. 322) is even smaller (1–3 mm tall), and has recently been seen only on soil by and in crevices of chalk in Wiltshire. *D. rigidulus* (p. 459) has less spreading leaves, and is usually darker, but may have a pale leaf base. *Eucladium verticillatum* (p. 420) is a similar green, but larger (up to several centimetres tall). *Tortella inflexa* (p. 431) holds its leaves upright, and they are channelled with a slightly hooded tip.

Habitat *D. australasiae* var. *umbrosus* is a lowland moss of moist, shaded, calcareous places; for example, on mortar at the base of retaining walls and soil in disused quarries and near springs. It often grows with *Gyroweisia tenuis*, which is similar in size, but has bluntly tipped leaves.