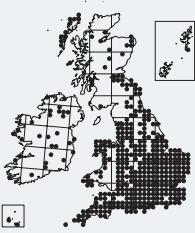


*Didymodon vinealis**Barbula vinealis*

Soft-tufted Beard-moss

Key 195, 242



Identification

The upper leaves of *D. vinealis* are 1–3 mm long and bright yellow-green; lower leaves are brown. Shoots usually form dense turfs, 0.5–2 cm tall, but may grow in dense cushions. The leaves twist slightly when dry, and become appressed to the stems. Capsules are rare in spring and summer.

Similar species

D. insulanus (p. 463) has longer (about 3–4 mm) upper leaves which become much curled and twisted when dry, and its shoots form scattered tufts rather than dense turfs or rounded cushions. *D. rigidulus* (p. 459) is usually a darker green moss of moister, shaded places, and its capsules develop later in the year. *D. nicholsonii* (p. 460) is darker and usually grows on tarmac, gravel paths, concrete and river banks. *D. acutus* (p. 456) is brown or olive-green, and its upper leaves are not bright yellow-green. It grows on soil rather than stone. The leaves of *D. fallax* (p. 457) curve away from the stem, have a blunter tip, and become twisted when dry. *D. fallax* grows on soil, not stone. The leaves of *Ceratodon purpureus* (p. 354) vary in colour, but are often reddish, with shiny margins. *Ceratodon* frequently produces capsules, held on a purple-red seta. Young *Schistidium crassipilum* (p. 511) has short hair points. *Cheilothea chloropus* (p. 355) looks spikier and has plane leaf margins.

Habitat

Locally common on dry walls and unshaded, base-rich rock, *D. vinealis* usually favours stone, but occasionally occurs on hard or stony, calcareous ground and in short, dry turf. It may also grow on roof-tiles and concrete.