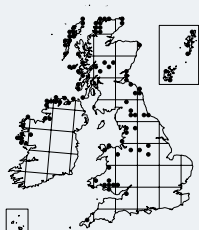


Distichium inclinatum

Inclined Distichium

Key 80



Identification This moss grows in rather dull, dark or mid-green patches or turfs to 5 cm tall, but usually only 1–2 cm tall. The shoots are flattened, with leaves in 2 ranks on either side of the stem. The leaf is about 4.5 mm long, has a sheathing base, abruptly narrowing into a more or less reflexed upper part with a fine tip, most of which is occupied by the excurrent nerve. Egg-shaped capsules are common, about 1.5 mm long, and are inclined (at about 45°) on a seta up to 1 cm long.

Similar species Confusion is only likely with *D. capillaceum* (p. 352) which can look very similar when growing in more exposed sites and on damp shell-sand in slacks. *D. inclinatum* is usually smaller, a dull, dark green colour and has less reflexed leaves, but the only certain distinguishing characters are the shorter, inclined capsule, and microscopically the significantly larger spores.

Habitat *D. inclinatum* is most often found in the close bryophyte-rich turf on damp shell sand in the north and west of Britain. It is also scarce on damp ledges of calcareous crags, and is occasionally present on old wall mortar, at least in south Wales.