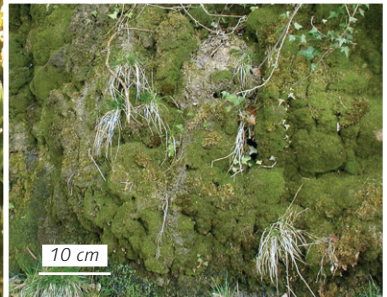
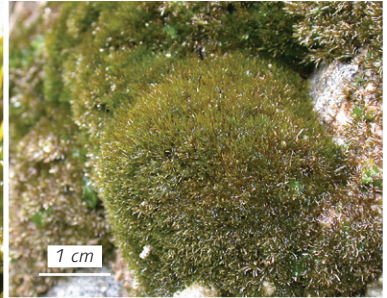
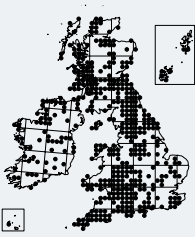


*Eucladium verticillatum*

Whorled Tufa-moss

Key 222



**Identification** Forms dense, pale green tufts or irregular cushions, up to several centimetres tall, usually encrusted with calcareous matter below, and often on the tip of the leaves. The stems are much branched, rather slender and fragile. The leaves are long (up to 3 mm) and thin, with a strong nerve that ends in an acute tip. The cells of the leaf base are colourless and at the border project in a number of teeth. This unique feature, not seen in other British mosses, is visible with a hand lens on well-developed leaves.

**Similar species** *Didymodon rigidulus* (p. 459) also grows on damp calcareous rock and walls. It is often encrusted, but is darker and has a more thickened, blunt and parallel-sided leaf tip composed entirely of nerve. *Didymodon australasiae* var. *umbrosus* (p. 467) occurs in similar habitats, especially on damp mortar, and is also pale and encrusted, but is usually only a few millimetres tall. *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* (p. 447) also forms cushions on wet, base-rich rock, but its leaves are only 1–1.5 mm long, and lack teeth along the basal margins. Dark forms of *E. verticillatum* could be confused with *Gymnostomum aeruginosum* (p. 451), but its leaves are also no more than 1.5 mm long and lack teeth along the basal margin.

**Habitat** Grows in wet, shaded places where base-rich water trickles from calcareous rocks, and also by streams and flushes. Sometimes found on the mortar of wet brickwork. This is one of the most important tufa-forming mosses, with the lower part of the tufts often becoming hard and petrified with calcium salts.