

While surveying the magnificent Morrone Birkwood SSSI (South Aberdeenshire) in Sept 2013 I picked up a deer dropping that had both *Splachnum ampullaceum* and *S. sphaericum* as residents. Neither had sporophytes and I wondered how the plants would get on in my garden, 400 km south in suburban lowland South Lancashire (quite a different environment to the Scottish hills). Upon arriving home, I placed the faecal nugget in a small plastic tank that sat in a corner of the garden and promptly forgot about it. In June 2014, while clearing up a little, I re-discovered the tank and there sat inside was a beautiful cluster of sporophytes, mostly *S. ampullaceum* and a few taller *S. sphaericum*. The image shows one of the former, born in Scotland and neglectfully raised in England. Once upon a time, this little gem would likely have occurred widely across the numerous mires (known locally as 'mosses') of the South Lancashire and Cheshire lowlands, but the habitat has been obliterated and this finest of plants has gone; except, that is, within a forgotten corner of a quiet Rainhill garden.



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