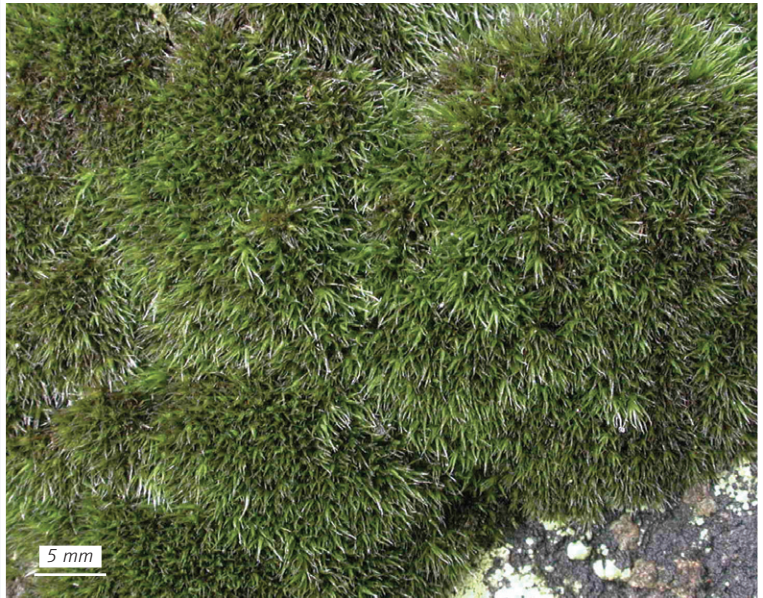
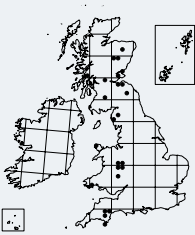


# *Grimmia montana*

Sun Grimmia



**Identification** *G. montana* forms small dark green to almost black cushions up to 1 cm tall, with leaves approximately 2.5–3 mm long. The hair point varies in length and can sometimes be as long as the upper leaf blade, making the cushion appear hoary. Field characters are decidedly subtle, but it has narrow leaves with plane margins below to weakly incurved in the upper part of the leaf. Capsules are rare.

**Similar species** *G. montana* is almost impossible to distinguish from *G. alpestris* (Smith p. 478) and *G. sessitana* (*Field Bryology* 95, 16–20) in the field and needs to be checked. However, *G. alpestris*, known from three localities, and *G. sessitana* known from one locality, are both very rare plants in Britain. *G. donniana* (p. 522) may also look similar, but is usually freely fertile with abundant capsules. There is also some resemblance to *Coscinodon cribrus* (p. 505), but *C. cribrus* has distinct longitudinal folds on its leaves.

**Habitat** Grows on a range of hard rock types from ultra-base-rich to acidic, usually on exposed, well-illuminated aspects. Despite its name, it often grows at low altitudes.