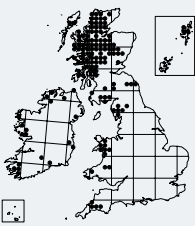


*Grimmia ramondii**G. curvata*, *Dryptodon patens*Spreading-leaved *Grimmia*

**Identification** This species resembles a *Racomitrium* more than a *Grimmia*, as it forms loose patches, often with curved, ascending shoots several centimetres long, and its leaves lack a hair point. The leaves are about 3–3.5 mm long, appressed to the stem when dry, and when moist they spread and often slightly turn to one side. They have one or both margins recurved. The most reliable field character, best seen on dry leaves through a 20 hand lens, is a groove running along the back of the nerve, particularly in the upper part of the leaf, formed from two prominent wings. Capsules, which are furrowed when mature, are rare.

**Similar species** *Racomitrium aquaticum* (p. 535) and forms of *R. heterostichum* (p. 537) that lack hair points also lack a groove along the back of the nerve, and are more usually fertile, with smooth capsules. Examination of the leaf tip through a hand lens shows that it is sharply pointed in *G. ramondii*, but rounded (although narrow) in *R. aquaticum* and in such forms of *R. heterostichum*.

**Habitat** A plant of upland areas in northern and western Britain, found both at high and low altitudes. *G. ramondii* grows on acidic to slightly base-rich, sheltered or exposed rocks, especially igneous ones. It is most often found close to water, for example on boulders in streams or lakes, or on intermittently flushed outcrops.