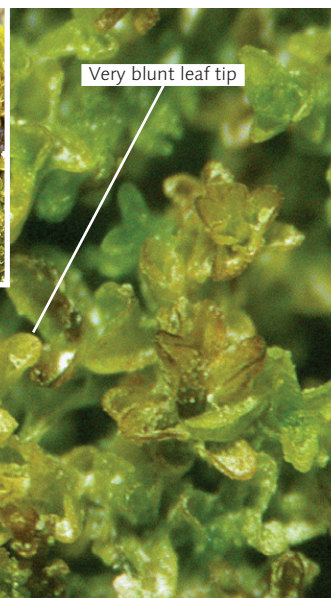
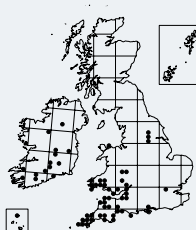


Gymnostomum viridulum

Luisier's Tufa-moss



Identification Forms bright green, often dense patches a few millimetres tall. The leaves are close-set on the stems, and very broad for their width, about 0.25 mm long, 2–4 times as long as they are wide with a very rounded, blunt tip, and are usually spreading or recurved when moist. Under a microscope, gemmae can usually be found in the leaf axils. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species Can be confused with *G. calcareum* (p. 450) which forms patches over 5 mm tall and has more longly tapering leaves over 5 times as long as wide. *Gyroweisia tenuis* (p. 448) occurs on the surface of harder substrates such as damp brickwork. It is not as bright green, the plants are usually more widely scattered and the leaves are not as broad in comparison to their length.

Habitat *G. viridulum* prefers soft, highly calcareous substrates such as crumbling tufa, lime mortar, old walls or thin soil on limestone rock ledges. It is usually found in shade.