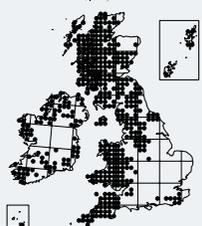
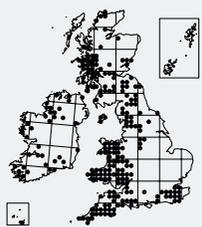


*Heterocladium heteropterum/flaccidum**H. heteropterum* var. *heteropterum*/var. *flaccidum*

Wry-leaved/Slender Tamarisk-moss

*H. heteropterum**H. flaccidum*

**Identification** Well-grown *H. heteropterum* forms shoots up to about 3 cm long. It is dingy, dark green, with roughly pinnate branching, down-curved stem leaves and short nerves (to less than halfway up the leaf). Stem leaves are about twice the size of the branch leaves (about 1 and 0.5 mm long, respectively); both taper to short, acute points. *H. flaccidum* is smaller and wirier: typical shoots are less than 1 mm thick. Its leaves are also shortly pointed and almost nerveless, although they are so small that this can be difficult to observe. Sometimes it is not possible to confidently distinguish small *H. heteropterum* from large *H. flaccidum*. Capsules are rare.

**Similar species** *H. wulfsbergii* (Smith, p. 733) should be borne in mind in rocky ravines in the west, especially where a stream pummels the rock. It is almost identical to *H. heteropterum* in size and appearance, but has a thick nerve that extends over halfway up the stem leaves and branch leaves. *H. dimorphum* (Smith, p. 734) is a very rare plant of calcareous rocks or soil in the Scottish mountains, which differs from *H. heteropterum* in having reflexed stem leaves. *Kindbergia praelonga* (p. 767) may be similar in size and shape to *H. heteropterum*, but has long nerves and very wide-based stem leaves. *Amblystegium serpens* (p. 702) and *A. confervoides* (p. 705) can look very similar to *H. flaccidum*, but both have longer, narrower leaves.

**Habitat** Both species occur in humid places in the west. *H. heteropterum* grows on acidic or slightly base-rich rocks in humid woodlands and gorges or at the foot of crags. *H. flaccidum* is more often found on base-rich rock, especially calcareous sandstone. It is particularly characteristic of heavily shaded rocks embedded in the floor of steep woodlands and sometimes grows on flint in the south.