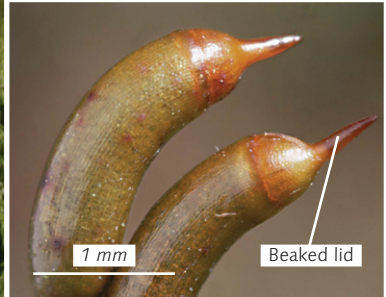
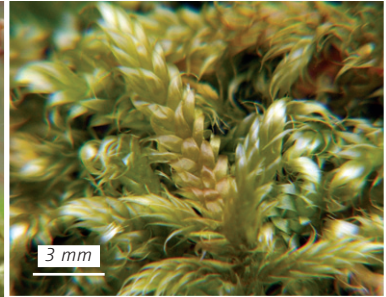
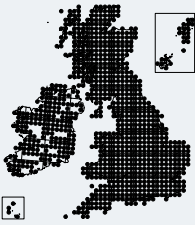


Hypnum cupressiforme

Cypress-leaved Plait-moss

Key 301, 306



Identification This widespread and abundant moss has irregularly branched, slender to medium-sized shoots typically about 2 cm long, and strongly curved leaves, 1–2 mm long, that taper to a long, fine point. The nerve is absent, or very short and double. The shoots are green or tinged with a warm, brownish colour in the older parts. Capsules are frequent, and 2.5 mm long. The lid is beaked.

Similar species *H. andoi* (p. 804) differs in the shortly pointed capsule lid. It is often more slender, sometimes with more strongly curved leaves, and always lacks brownish tints, but the two species cannot always be distinguished in the field when non-fertile. *H. uncinulatum* (Smith, p. 908) is a very rare Atlantic moss known only from south-west Ireland. It often has slender shoots, tinged warm yellow-brown, and its branch leaves are often strongly curved. Its curved capsule is rather hump-backed and wide-mouthed when dry and empty. Like *H. cupressiforme*, *H. uncinulatum* grows on rock, bark and wood.

Habitat *H. cupressiforme* is very common on acidic to slightly base-rich bark and siliceous rock, but is often replaced by *H. andoi* on more acidic substrates.