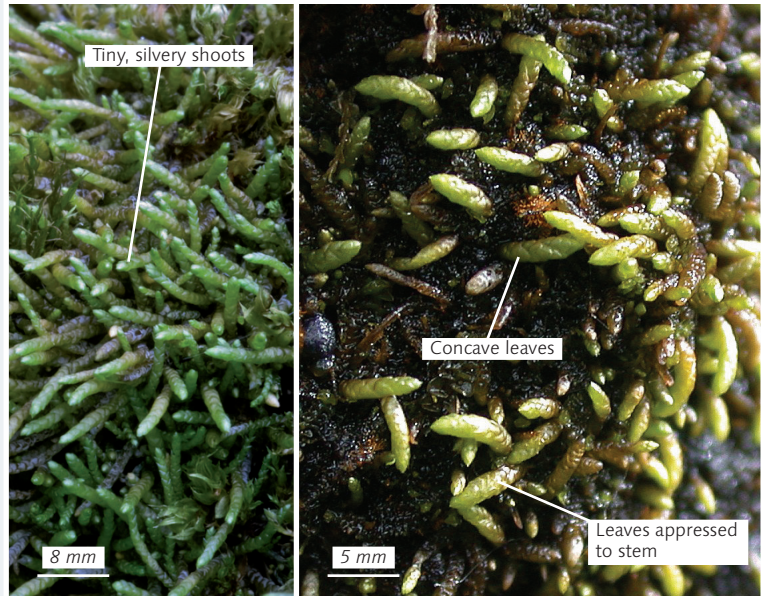
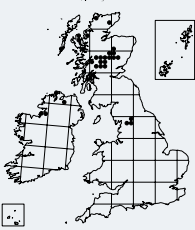


*Myurella julacea*

Small Mouse-tail Moss



**Identification** This minute moss has shoots only about 1.5 cm long and less than 0.5 mm wide. Fresh shoots are smoothly cylindrical, wiry, branched, and silvery blue-green. The tiny, round leaves (about 0.4–0.5 mm long) are concave and usually have a blunt tip, giving shoots a slightly swollen appearance despite their minute size. *M. julacea* is variable, and some forms have a thin, straight leaf tip. Whether dry or moist, the leaves lie appressed to the stem. The nerve is short or absent. Capsules are rare, and develop in summer.

**Similar species** The much rarer *M. tenerrima* (Smith, p. 863) is pale green or yellowish, and hence less glaucous. The leaves of *M. tenerrima* have a reflexed tip, and when moist they clasp the stems rather less closely than those of *M. julacea*. *M. tenerrima* also tends to form larger patches than *M. julacea*, and is typically a species of dry, base-rich soil near mica-schist rock on east- or south-facing cliffs above 600 m altitude. *Anomobryum julaceum* (p. 579) and *Plagiobryum zieri* (p. 578) somewhat resemble *M. julacea*, but their leaves are about twice as big (1 mm long). The liverworts *Gymnomitrium* (pp. 162–164) and *Anthelia* (p. 109) also have tiny, silvery grey shoots.

**Habitat** Shoots of *M. julacea* usually grow amongst other bryophytes or as small, pure patches on base-rich soil amongst rocks or in crevices on mountains. It is seldom present in much quantity.