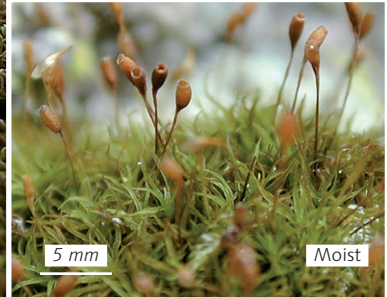
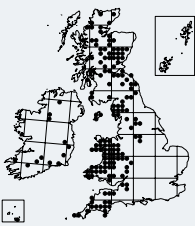


*Oreoweisia bruntonii**Cynodontium bruntonii*

Brunton's Dog-tooth



Identification

A medium-sized moss, forming dense, dark to mid-green cushions up to 5 cm high. The 3 mm long leaves curl inwards when the plant is dry, and become erect to spreading with some leaves recurved when moist. They are narrowly spearhead-shaped, gradually tapering to an acute tip where the leaf-blade cells can be seen on each side of the nerve at the tip. The leaf margins are recurved to about halfway, and above this a few widely spaced teeth are found on the margins. Careful examination with a hand lens will also show the leaf looks more opaque in the upper part, with cells that have rough, uneven surfaces. Capsules are common, about 1.5 mm long, pale brown, egg-shaped, erect and smooth when moist, but may be somewhat ridged when dry. The peristome teeth are very irregular.

Similar species

Often confused with *Cynodontium* species and with *Dicranoweisia cirrata* (p. 364). The only relatively common *Cynodontium* species is *C. jeneri* (p. 359) which has a ridged capsule and larger leaf cells in a single layer (making the leaf less opaque) without such uneven surfaces. *D. cirrata* is usually smaller, and grows on exposed, flat surfaces, rather than sheltered, rocky crevices.

Habitat

A moss of dry, acidic to mildly base-rich rocks, usually occurring under overhangs or other sheltered spots in ravines or shaded crags, but occasionally on drystone walls. Locally common in parts of mid- and north Wales.