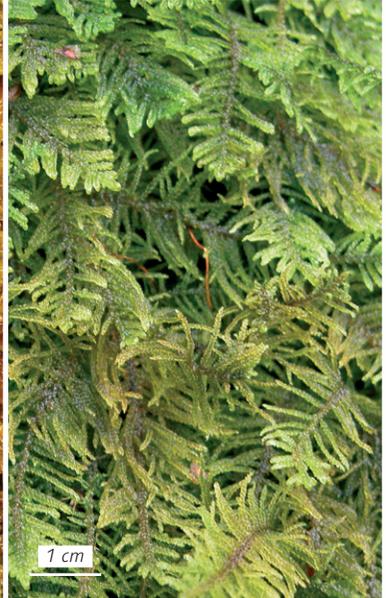
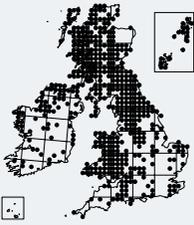


*Palustriella commutata**Cratoneuron commutatum* var. *commutatum*

Curled Hook-moss

Key 313, 319



Identification Typical shoots are green or yellowish-brown, 4–6 cm long or more, with a densely and regularly pinnate pattern of branching. This branching looks rather feather-like, but calcareous deposits on the shoots make them feel stiff and rough. The stem is clothed with tiny leaf-like structures and red-brown rhizoids which make the stem look fuzzy. The triangularly heart-shaped stem leaves are 2–2.5 mm long, pleated, and have a very stout nerve that extends to the long, fine tip. The cells in the basal angles are coloured, but may be difficult to see without a microscope. The strongly curved branch leaves are much smaller (up to about 1.5 mm). Capsules are rare.

Similar species *P. falcata* (p. 699) has fewer, less regular branches that are almost as stout as the main stems, so it looks less neatly branched. Other wetland mosses with feather-like fronds and curved leaves (e.g. *Sanionia uncinata*, p. 728; *Drepanocladus* species, pp. 713–714; *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*, p. 724; *Warnstorfia* species, pp. 715–717; and *Scorpidium* species, pp. 721–723) lack the combination of pleated leaves, stout nerve, and the red-brown rhizoids on the lower part of stems. *Cratoneuron filicinum* (p. 701) has smaller shoots (about 1–2 cm long), unpleated leaves, and straight or only moderately curved branch leaves. *Ctenidium molluscum* (p. 812) is usually smaller, and has no nerve. *Ptilium crista-castrensis* (p. 811) does not grow in wet, base-rich places, and has no nerve.

Habitat *P. commutata* occurs in a variety of wet, base-rich habitats, but is particularly characteristic of wet cliffs, springs and flushes. It often forms extensive patches, and may drape dripping, calcareous cliffs. It may even occur on artificial fountains made of calcareous materials if the flow of water is continuous.