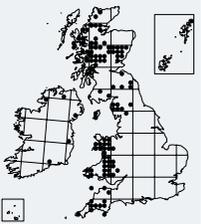
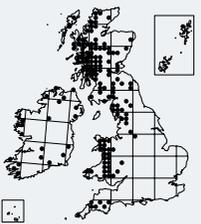


Rhabdoweisia fugax/crispata

Dwarf/Toothed Streak-moss

*R. fugax**R. crispata**R. crispata**R. fugax*

Identification

These are small mosses, forming dense, yellow-green cushions to 1 cm deep. The leaves are about 1.5–3.5 mm long, crisped when dry, spreading and somewhat wavy when moist, very gradually tapering from a narrow base to a sharp point. The leaf margins of *R. fugax* are plane and entire or with a few teeth at the tip, but these can be difficult to see with a hand lens; the nerve ends below the tip. The leaf margins of *R. crispata* are also plane, and more finely and distinctly toothed towards the tip, but the teeth can be difficult to see with a hand lens; the nerve ends below the tip. Capsules are common, pale brown when mature, less than 1 mm long, egg-shaped and longitudinally ridged, borne on a short, often somewhat curved seta. The fragile peristome teeth narrow abruptly to 1 cell wide from a broad base and are often lost, but this feature is difficult to see with a hand lens.

Similar species

These two mosses are not easy to distinguish from each other in the field and microscopical examination is necessary. *R. crispata* is usually larger with a more parallel-sided leaf and a blunter, distinctly toothed leaf tip. In fruiting plants, the peristome teeth of *R. crispata* taper more gradually and are less fragile. *R. crenulata* (p. 357) is a larger plant with wider, more shortly pointed leaves that are coarsely toothed and larger cells which render the leaf less opaque.

Habitat

R. fugax grows in sheltered niches on acidic crags in ravines and in woodland, and may be found quite high in the mountains. *R. crispata* is found in similar acidic habitats, and sometimes occurs with *R. fugax*, but may be slightly more tolerant of base-rich rocks.