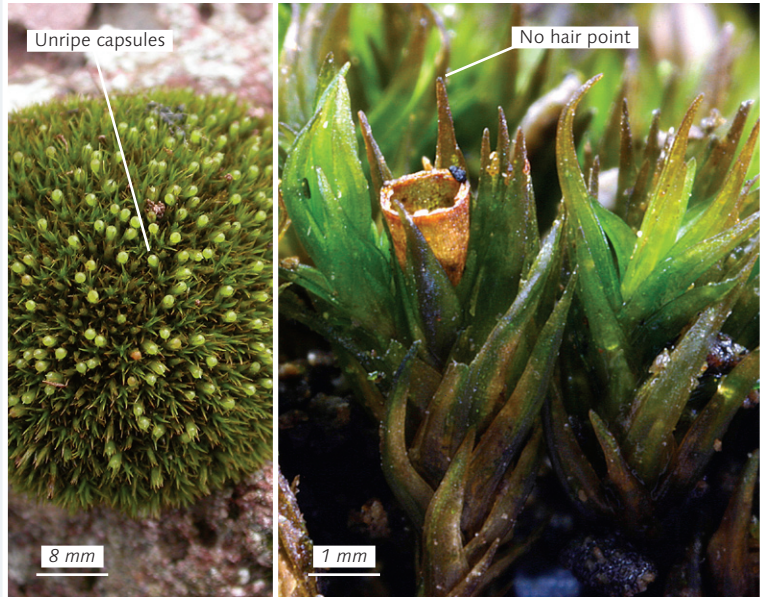
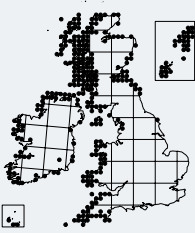


Schistidium maritimum

Seaside Grimmia

Key 206



Identification The dense, dark, olive-green cushions of this moss are a typical feature on coastal rocks in northern and western Britain. Cushions are up to 2 cm tall, with leaves about 2 mm long. Its leaves are opaque as they are thickened above and, unlike most British *Schistidium* species, they lack a hair point (although dead tissue occasionally makes leaves on this species look as though they have a hair point). The pale green (unripe) or light brown (ripe) capsules, sheathed by slightly broader leaves, stick up slightly from the cushions.

Similar species Unlikely to be confused with other species. *Trichostomum brachydontium* (p. 433) and *Weissia perssonii* (see *W. controversa*, p. 422; Smith, p. 267) also occur on coastal rocks, and atypical plants could be confusing. Both these species lack the narrow, thickened leaf tip of *S. maritimum*, and *W. perssonii* has incurved margins.

Habitat Most colonies are in shallow crevices in coastal rocks, especially where there is some shelter or an occasional trickle of freshwater from above. *S. maritimum* may also colonize artificial substrates.