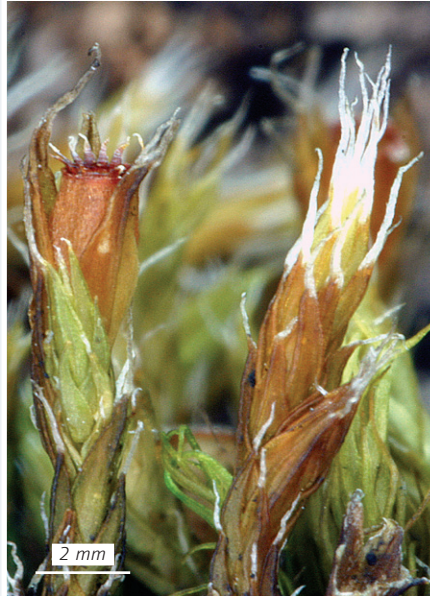
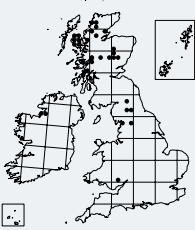


Schistidium robustum

Robust Grimmia



Identification This moss of upland, calcareous rocks looks similar to *S. crassipilum* and needs to be consciously searched for in suitable places. Usually, the first thing that draws attention is the way that the long capsules, partly hidden by leaves, stand out above its loose (or sometimes dense), hoary cushions. A hand lens will show that the long hair point has plenty of sharp teeth, but a microscope is needed for certain identification. Shoots are 1–3 cm long, with lower leaves 2–2.5 mm long and those surrounding the capsule about 3.5 mm long.

Similar species The only similar species in Britain is the much commoner *S. crassipilum* (p. 511), which is quite frequent in the upland districts where *S. robustum* grows. The strongly toothed hair point is the only useful field character, as microscopical examination is needed to see that cells of the leaf blade have wavy walls almost all the way up the leaf and the cells of the outer wall of the capsule are long and narrow.

Habitat An upland calcicole recorded from Scotland southwards to the Brecon Beacons. It tends to grow on limestone blocks in unshaded situations, especially Dalradian and Carboniferous Limestones, but has also been recorded on ledges of crumbling schist and basalt.