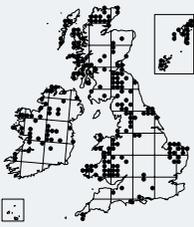


*Scorpidium cossonii**Drepanocladus cossonii*; *D. revolvens* var. *intermedius*

Intermediate Hook-moss

Key 322



## Identification

*S. cossonii* forms relatively small, neat, upright, dark green or red-mottled patches, with shoots up to 2 mm wide. Typical forms have abundant short branches. The leaves are 2–2.5 mm long, and are all turned in one direction. They are wider than those of the similar-looking *Warnstorfia exannulata*, are not pleated, and so look smooth and shiny. The cells in the basal angles of the leaves are so small and few that they are scarcely visible through a hand lens.

## Similar species

Typical plants look very different from *S. revolvens* (p. 723), which is dark red with long irregular branches and a sprawling habit, but intermediates are frequent. *Warnstorfia exannulata* (p. 716) prefers less calcareous fens and flushes, and differs in its narrower leaves that less obviously point in one direction, and in the large, clearly visible cells in the basal corners of the leaves. *Hamatocaulis vernicosus* (p. 724) has pleated leaves, a bright red leaf base, and branches that tend to be considerably longer than those of *S. cossonii*. *Palustriella falcata* (p. 699) has pleated leaves and pinnate shoots.

## Habitat

Calcareous flushes, springs and fens, especially in the uplands, are typical habitats of *S. cossonii*. It needs open conditions and seldom persists under dense sedges (*Carex* species) or purple moor-grass (*Molinia*).