Sematophyllum micans

Hageniella micans

Sparkling Signal-moss





Identification The glossy, golden green shoots of S. micans are usually very regularly arranged, running at a shallow angle parallel to the down-slope of low rocks over which water frequently runs. Its shoots are 2-5 cm long, with leaves about 0.5-1 mm long – about twice as long as wide. The nerve is double, extending a third or halfway towards the leaf tip. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

Similar species The leaves of S. demissum (p. 792) are about 3 times longer than wide, and lack a nerve (or may have a very short, faint nerve that is only visible microscopically). Slender forms of Hypnum andoi (p. 804) or H. resupinatum (p. 805) lack the glossy sheen and golden green colour of *S. micans. Hygrohypnum* species (pp. 730–734) are usually much larger mosses.

Habitat S. micans is never far from water, on damp, lightly shaded, acidic to slightly base-rich rocks in woods, wooded ravines and by waterfalls.