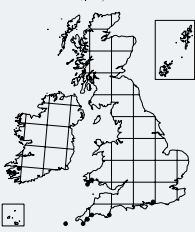


Sematophyllum substrumulosum

Bark Signal-moss



Identification *S. substrumulosum* forms glossy, dark or yellow-green patches up to 3 cm in diameter. Shoots are about 1.5 cm long, with sparsely and irregularly branched stems. Its leaves are 1.2–1.7 mm long, with a brownish-yellow base and a long, tapering leaf tip. The tip of the shoots often leans to one side, rather like *Hypnum* species. The nerve is absent or very short. The tapering leaves give shoots a tufted appearance. Capsules are common in late summer. They are inclined, curved, narrowly elliptical or shortly cylindrical, with a longly beaked lid. The setae are short and bright red.

Similar species *Hypnum resupinatum* (p. 805) has erect, not inclined, capsules. *H. cupressiforme* (p. 802) and *H. andoi* (p. 804) have inclined capsules, but these are long and narrow, whereas those of *S. substrumulosum* are shorter and wider. *Rhynchostegium confertum* (p. 761) has capsules similar to *S. substrumulosum* and its shoots can also closely resemble those of *S. substrumulosum*, especially when its leaves have a faint nerve. However, its leaves are usually blunter.

Habitat At most sites, for example in Cornwall, Ireland and south Wales, *S. substrumulosum* grows on acidic bark and humus in woodland. On the Isles of Scilly, it is also found in deep depressions on coastal heathland. At its only known site in south-east England it grows on yews (*Taxus baccata*) in ancient woodland.