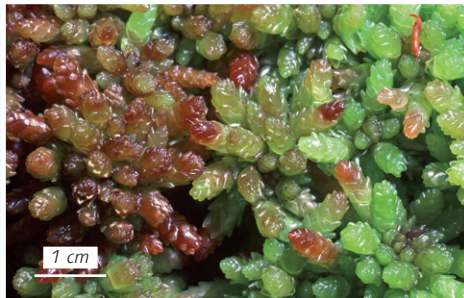
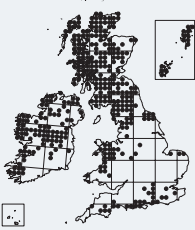


Sphagnum magellanicum

Magellanic Bog-moss

Section Sphagnum



Identification This species forms mats and low cushions on bogs. Capitula and branch leaves are wine-red, a mixture of red and green, or more rarely all green in the shade of taller plants. Branches in the outer part of the capitulum and just below are blunt-ended. The stem is wine-red or purplish, or at least has flecks of these colours in it (remove the branches and hold up to the light to see). Capsules are rare.

Similar species Plants growing on bogs showing at least traces of the characteristic wine-red colour are unmistakable. *S. palustre* (p. 279) can develop a brick-red capitulum centre; however, this is distinctly arched above and contrasts with the paler, spreading, outer branches, which are usually elongated and tapering. *S. magellanicum* has flatter capitula which, when well-illuminated, are all the same colour. In undisturbed mires, *S. magellanicum* and *S. palustre* will not usually be found close together, but may be so near the margins or where the mire has been affected by drainage. Green forms of *S. magellanicum* and *S. papillosum* (p. 278) look very similar and occur in the same habitat. If required, identification of such forms should be confirmed under a microscope. However, in these well-illuminated habitats, there will almost always be more typically coloured plants nearby.

Habitat Occurs on raised and blanket bogs, and in valley mires. Where hummocks and hollows are well-developed, *S. magellanicum* occupies a position intermediate between the tops of the hummocks and the hollows.