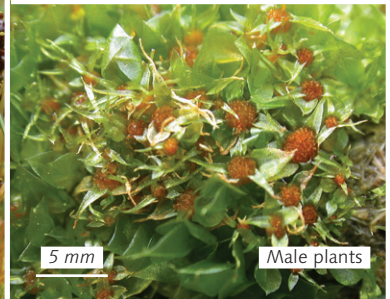
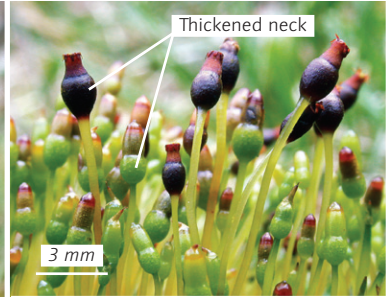
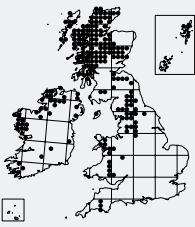


Splachnum sphaericum

Round-fruited Collar-moss



Identification This is the commonest *Splachnum* species in many parts of upland Britain. Its shoots are bright green and lax, 1–2 cm tall, with leaves 3 mm long and 2 mm wide, longly tapering, untoothed or obscurely toothed. Capsules are common and borne on a slightly wavy seta that is reddish below, yellow above, with a dark-coloured neck that is thickened to no more than slightly wider than the main part of the capsule.

Similar species The capsule of *S. ampullaceum* (p. 571) has a much more strongly inflated neck, and the leaves are usually strongly toothed. The much rarer *S. vasculosum* (Smith, p. 520) has very widely egg-shaped leaves with a short, blunt tip, and is confined to base-rich flushes in the uplands. *Tetraplodon* species (p. 569) also grow on dung, but have leaves that taper to a long, thin tip.

Habitat Very habitat-specific: this moss is confined to dung, usually herbivore dung, on heaths and bogs.