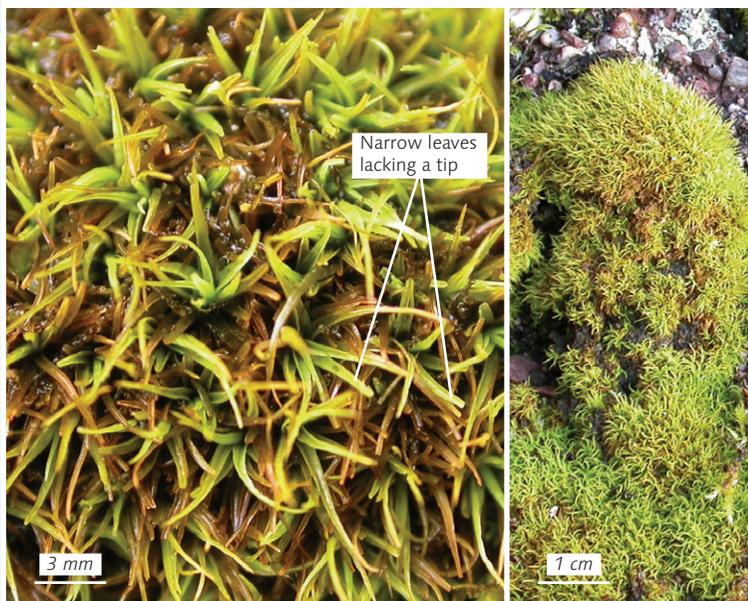
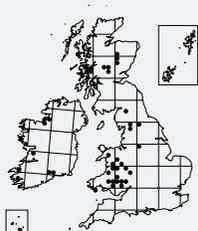


# *Tortella bambergeri*

Bamberger's Crisp-moss



**Identification** This medium-sized (shoots 8–20 mm tall) moss grows as dense cushions. Young leaves are 3.5–4.5 mm long, yellow-green or tinged orange, but the dense, dark brown, older part of a cushion is normally visible. On moist cushions, the narrow leaves stick up from the cushion, most of them lacking the tip. When dry, the leaves are curled and contorted.

**Similar species** Formerly confused in Britain with fragile-leaved forms of *T. tortuosa* (p. 428). However, cushions of *T. bambergeri* are denser, with straighter, narrower leaves and flat, rather than wavy margins. The key difference is visible through a 20 hand lens: the back of the nerve in the apical quarter of the intact leaf of *T. bambergeri* is matt, whereas the back of the nerve is shiny to the tip in *T. tortuosa*. *T. nitida* (p. 430) also has fragile leaves, but its intact leaves are shorter and broader than those of *T. bambergeri*. Colonies on rocks in or by streams may be darker green, inviting confusion with *Trichostomum tenuirostre* (p. 435). Despite its notched margins, *T. tenuirostre* does not have most of its leaf tips missing, and its leaf base does not have the colourless V found in *T. bambergeri*.

**Habitat** *T. bambergeri* is usually found on boulders in the British uplands. Most colonies are on siliceous rocks, such as Old Red Sandstone, but it also grows sometimes on limestone, especially the Dalradian Limestone of central Scotland. It sometimes shares blocks with *T. tortuosa*, but the latter species tends to favour more humid situations. Very few colonies of *T. bambergeri* have been found on crags. *T. bambergeri* will almost certainly prove to be much more widespread than the distribution map above indicates, for in the past it has been erroneously recorded as *T. tortuosa*.

*Note.* This species does not appear in Smith (2004). For further details, please refer to *Journal of Bryology* 28, 5–10.

*Photos* Graham Motley Text Sam Bosanquet