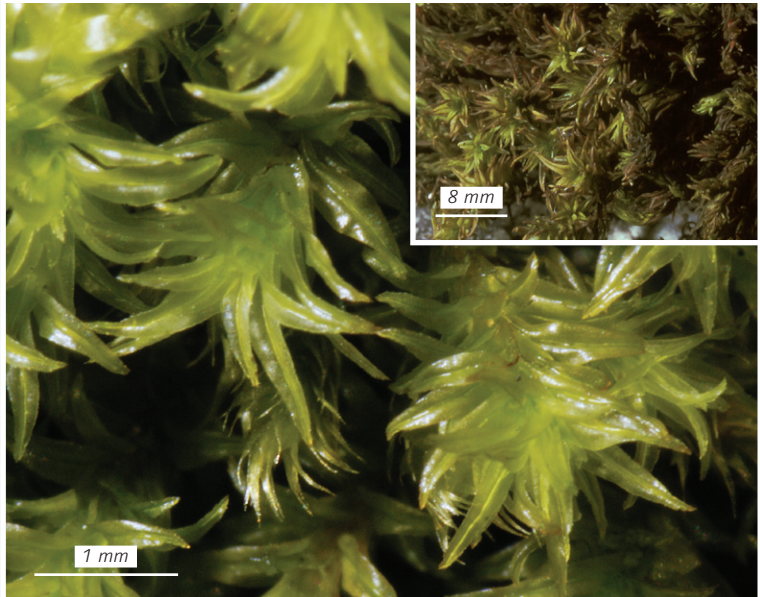
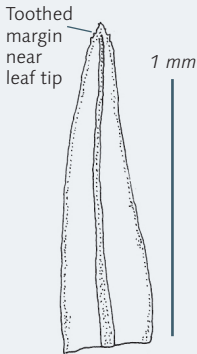
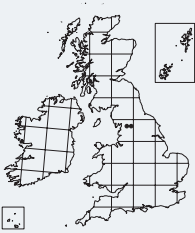


*Zygodon gracilis*

Slender Yoke-moss

**Identification**

*Z. gracilis* forms loose tufts up to 2–6 cm tall, so is larger than other British *Zygodon* species. Shoots are dull brownish-green above and reddish-brown below, with spearhead-shaped, pointed leaves. The upper leaves are sharply toothed towards the tip, a feature that distinguishes *Z. gracilis* from all other members of the genus. Its leaves are about 1.5 mm long, and spread and recurve when moist; when dry they twist slightly and become incurved. Capsules are very rarely produced in summer.

**Similar species**

*Z. gracilis* is taller than all other British members of the genus. In addition, other British *Zygodon* species (pp. 642–644) do not have sharply toothed leaves. *Amphidium mougeotii* (p. 641) also has untoothed leaf margins, and forms compact cushions on mildly base-rich or rather acidic rocks in humid places.

**Habitat**

Most records of this rare moss are from old, drystone walls of Carboniferous Limestone, but it may also occur on unshaded, dry outcrops of limestone.