

Gilbert Elliot, later Earl of Minto, and a friend of Nelson; William and Eleanor begat George Eden (1784-1849), who became governor-general of India.

Greville had not been in Edinburgh long before he was reading papers on cryptogamic botany before the Wernerian and Botanical Societies of that city, and accompanying William Jackson Hooker, Robert Graham, George Walker Arnott and other botanists on excursions. Neither requiring nor caring to take up his professional yoke, thereafter he devoted himself to botany. In 1823 he began to publish his *Scottish Cryptogamic Flora* in monthly parts, drawing and colouring the illustrations himself. This work extended to six yearly volumes containing 360 octavo plates. Some of Greville's original and beautiful coloured drawings lie today with the plants they represent in the herbarium at Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

By the mid-1820s he was giving popular lectures on botany in Edinburgh, and he formed extensive collections, not only of plants, but also of insects, marine crustaceans, and terrestrial and freshwater molluscs.

As a young man, Greville was fond of his rod and gun. Throughout his adult life he retained interest in a variety of cultural activities, and took an active role in various social matters, such as opposing slavery and promoting philanthropic concerns. In 1856 he was elected MP for Edinburgh.

During his later years Greville lost much of his private means, and paid his way by executing and selling drawings and paintings of Highland landscapes.

His son, a noted coleopterist, and three daughters survived him.

BBS field-guide

A team of BBS members is preparing a field-guide to British and Irish bryophytes. A sample page is reproduced below to indicate the layout and kind of treatment envisaged.

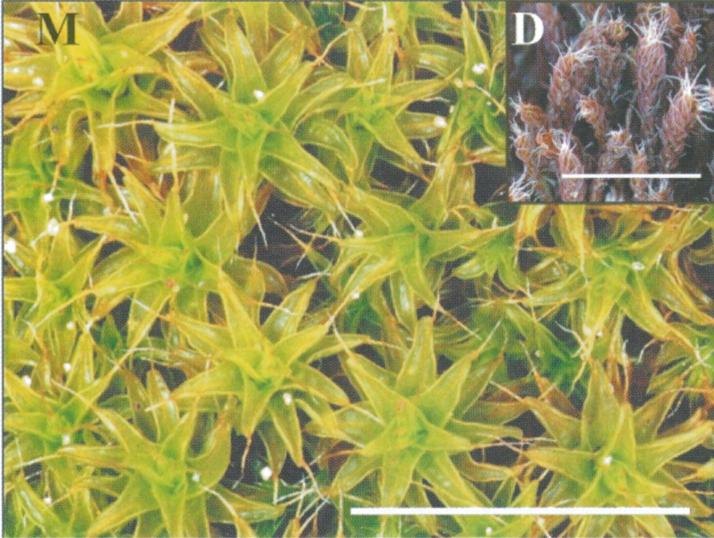
Parts of the guide will be published on the Society's website as they are drafted, so that field bryologists can test them, and notify comments, errors and omissions to the authors. The completed guide will be published as a book once it has been fully field tested.

In addition to testing parts of the guide as they become available, would you like to assist with this venture, for example by providing high-quality digital images, or writing accounts of species or groups of species, or helping with the administrative side? If so, please contact me in the first instance.

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Syntrichia ruralis ssp. *ruraliformis*

(Syn. *Tortula ruralis* ssp. *ruraliformis*) Sand-hill Screw-moss



Scale bars = 10mm

Identification

The leaves gradually taper to apices which bear long, silvery hair-points, a feature which characterises this species. The shoots, which are often partly buried in sand, are yellowish-green to golden-brown when moist (M), and golden-brown when dry (D). Leaves are squarrose when moist, and curled and twisted when dry. Fruits rare.

Habitat

Often forming extensive mats on loose sand in unstable coastal dunes. Also grows on sandy banks and cliffs on the coast, and sometimes in sandy places such as on roadsides and heaths. Occasionally found on stony or rocky ground, and increasingly frequent inland in south-east England in other habitats, especially on concrete standings and corrugated asbestos roofs.

Can be confused with:

Syntrichia ruralis ssp. *ruralis* (page...) which, however, typically forms denser cushions than the loose mats of *S. ruralis* ssp. *ruraliformis*, and has blunter, more rounded leaf-tips. **NB:** These two subspecies may occur together (sometimes as mixed stands) both on the coast and inland. *S. ruralis* ssp. *ruraliformis* is often markedly taller than *S. ruralis* ssp. *ruralis*. *S. intermedia* has leaves which are contracted below the middle.

