

*Marchantia polymorpha* subsp.  
*montivagans/polymorpha/rudera*  
Mountain/Star-headed/Common Liverwort



# Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland a field guide

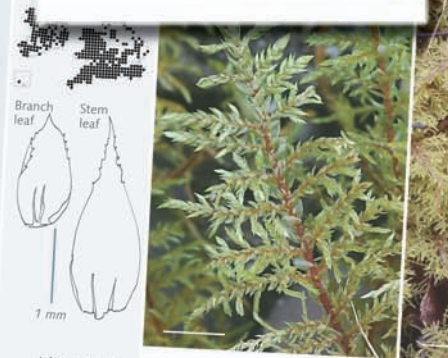
The want of a field guide has for many years greatly hindered further spread of interest in British and Irish field bryology. By filling this gap in the market, the guide will make a group that has largely been the realm of specialists into an accessible and popular interest for naturalists, reaching far beyond the current pool of bryologists, and into the wider community of naturalists beyond. Indeed, the guide makes an attractive, modestly priced gift for friends and relatives who are or might become interested in bryophytes.

This book is the only up-to-date, user-friendly guide to identifying British and Irish bryophytes in the field, with hundreds of colour photographs and black and white drawings showing what species look like, together with notes on how to identify and distinguish similar species, and habitat notes and distribution maps showing where they occur. You can view accounts of species, the keys and galleries, and other introductory material at <http://britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>

The **British Bryological Society** has published the guide, minimizing the price. Use this flyer to order your copies (*see overleaf*), or go to the BBS website at <http://britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/> to order online using PayPal. The guide is available at a price of **£24.95** per copy. (If you are ordering 10 copies or more, the unit price is £19.95.)

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British Bryological Society



**Identification** This glossy, bright green, robust moss has regularly branched stems and a red stem. Stem leaves are quite large, 2.5–3 mm long, with a long, tapering tip. Branch leaves are smaller, with a shorter tip. Both types of leaf have a short, double-toothed margin in their upper half. Under a microscope, they appear furry due to the presence of branched filaments.

**Similar species** *Thuidium tamariscinum* (p. 598) is also branched and grows in similar habitats, but has a green (rather than red) stem. Also, stem leaves of *T. tamariscinum* have a shorter point.

**Habitat** *H. splendens* is common and may be abundant among moorlands and in acidic woodlands. Whilst usually found in wet places, it may sometimes be found in well-leached habitats.

# Sphagnum skyense

Skye Bog-moss



**Barbula unguiculata**  
Bird's-claw Beard-moss

**Identification** This species grows in distinctive, bright yellow-green turfs up to 1.5 cm high. The leaves spread on the stems when moist, but take on a tight spiral habit when dry, making the yellow more very conspicuous. Each leaf is parallel-sided for most of its length with a rounded tip from which the nerve protrudes in a short, thick point. The margins are recurved, often for most of the length of the leaf. Capsules are not common, but when present are borne upright on a red seta.

**Similar species** *B. uncinata* (sp. 2963) tends to be a smaller plant, the leaf tip is more tapered and the nerve ends in the leaf tip or is only very shortly recurved. The capsules of *B. uncinata* are borne a yellow seta. *B. unguiculata* may be confused with *Zosterostichum flavobrunneum* (sp. 2765), but that is a larger plant which has leaves that are really broader as long and do not have a recurved margin. *Selaginella ampullacea* (Oerth, ex. 3885) lacks a protruding nerve at the leaf tip, and the leaves may become more yellow.

**Habitat** This is a plant of moorland or base-rich, disturbed and open habitats such as the edges of paths, gardens, heath and old walls. It is common throughout Britain and Ireland.

Photos: *Selaginella ampullacea* (Oerth) & *Zosterostichum flavobrunneum* (Oerth) (Copyright © J. D. Bunting & B. B. Bunting 2010)

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7. Leaves with long, fine, hair-like tips

Acrocarps with leaves that are narrow and lack long, curly drawn out tips