

Following his report on the occurrence of this unusual species in Abernethy forest in 2010, **Stewart Taylor** reports on two new records of *Buxbaumia viridis* on a dead juniper and oak.

# Records of *Buxbaumia viridis* growing on new substrates

During a concerted search for *Buxbaumia viridis* between 2007 and 2009, I found 175 populations of capsules mainly in Abernethy Forest (80%), but also at other sites in north-east Scotland. This single species search allowed me to develop a feel for the general colour and appearance of the habitat requirements for *B. viridis*, and at the end of the survey period the moss had been located growing on 14 different substrates comprising 12 tree species, wood ant nests and soil/humus (Taylor, 2010).

In 2011 and early 2012, other recorders found the moss growing on two new substrates and I visited both to help maintain a photographic record of all known sites to date. The first of these was found in May 2011 by Jonathan Humphrey whilst on a dead wood management course at RSPB Abernethy NNR. The delegates were visiting a known *B. viridis* site where, for a few years, the capsules had appeared on a section of Scots pine log. The log is lying in semi-mature Scots pine woodland with a sparse understory of juniper, and it was on a dead, moss-covered stem of one of the junipers that two capsules were found. When I visited the site to photograph



△ (Top) Late season (June 2011) *B. viridis* capsules on a dead juniper stem. The pencil in the bottom photograph indicates the location. Stewart Taylor

the capsules I found two more on another dead stem on an adjacent juniper. No capsules have appeared on the log or the junipers this growing season (2011/12).

The second site was found by Colin Leslie in February 2012 in an open mixed woodland of mature conifers with a scatter of broad-leaved trees on Forestry Commission Scotland land on the south side of Loch Ness. At this site the two capsules from this growing season were found on the root section of an ancient fallen oak in an untypically open situation. The growing medium was a mix of soil, humus and decaying root with a light growth of other bryophytes. The number of alder trees on the site indicated a generally damp habitat. The root was given some protection to the north and east by a group of mature sitka spruce trees, but was fairly open and exposed to the south and west creating, possibly, quite a dry microclimate.

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### Reference

Taylor, S. (2010). *Buxbaumia viridis* in Abernethy Forest and other sites in northern Scotland. *Field Bryology* 100, 9–14.



△ (Top) *B. viridis* capsules on a fallen oak tree in February 2012. The author indicates the location in the bottom photograph. Stewart Taylor

