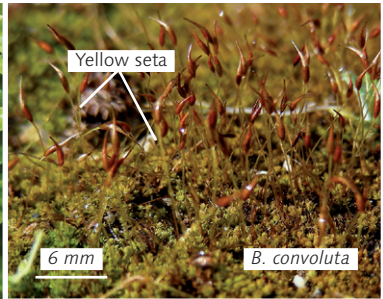
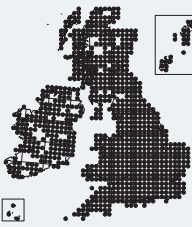


*Barbula convoluta/sardoa**B. sardoa* = *B. convoluta* var. *commutata*

Lesser Bird's-claw Beard-moss

Key 174, 191, 248



**Identification** *B. convoluta* forms distinctive, bright yellow-green cushions or tight turfs. The shoots are typically 0.5–2 cm tall (occasionally up to 2.5 cm), and have rather spreading leaves which become very twisted when dry. The leaves are usually less than 1.5 mm long, more or less parallel-sided and have a shortly tapered tip. The nerve ends in the tip or may be very shortly excurrent. The leaf margins may be recurved below, but this can be difficult to see. Capsules are not all that common, but they are often very abundant when they do occur, and held upright on a yellow seta. The leaves immediately next to the base of the seta enfold it (hence the specific name '*convoluta*'). *B. sardoa* is rather more robust, darker green, shinier, and has wavy leaf margins.

**Similar species** *B. unguiculata* (p. 455) is usually larger, with a blunter leaf tip and recurved leaf margins. The leaves of *Trichostomum brachydontium* (p. 433) are longer (2–4 mm). *Zygodon viridissimus* (p. 642) on walls differs in being less yellow, with leaves tapering towards the tip from well down the margins. *Didymodon* species (pp. 456–467) growing on walls also differ from *B. convoluta* in having leaves that taper from well down near the base. *Anoetangium aestivum* (p. 452) resembles *B. convoluta* but grows on damp rock in the hills.

**Habitat** These very common mosses are typically found in disturbed, open habitats such as paths, gardens, fields and walls.