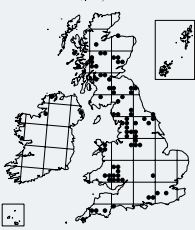


Brachydontium trichodes

Bristle-leaf



Identification This very small moss has shoots only 1–2 mm tall, and very narrow, bristle-like leaves 1–1.5 mm long. The minute shoots can sometimes form extensive patches in suitable habitats. The capsule, which is normally present, is longitudinally furrowed when dry, and borne on a long seta.

Similar species Although very similar in size and general appearance to *Seligeria* species (pp. 545–551) and *Campylostelium saxicola* (p. 543), none of these has strongly, longitudinally furrowed capsules. Colonies of *B. trichodes* tend to look dingy brown-green rather than the bright green of *Seligeria pusilla* (p. 545). *Tetradontium brownianum* (p. 334), another small plant of similar habitats, can be distinguished by its capsules having only 4 large peristome teeth and its nerveless, thickened protonemal leaves.

Habitat *B. trichodes* is found growing mainly on shaded sandstone rocks by streams in hilly districts, although it can grow on other soft and crumbly rocks. It most often grows on vertical or overhanging rock surfaces, but is also found sometimes on small pebbles.