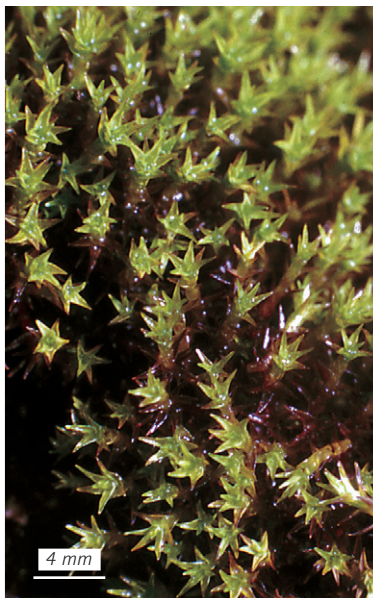
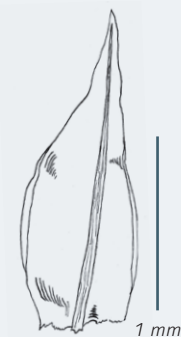
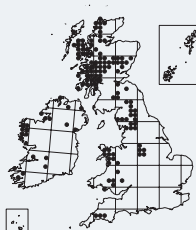


Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens

Barbula ferruginascens

Rufous Beard-moss



Identification *B. ferruginascens* forms loose, deep turfs which are usually a bright reddish-brown below, with young shoot tips that are yellow-green and very opaque. The plants can be up to 5 cm tall and have leaves which are more or less upright or slightly spreading from an upright base. The leaves are quite short (1.5 mm) and taper from a relatively wide base to a sharp tip. The margins are strongly recurved for most of their length and the nerve ends in the leaf tip. Capsules are unknown.

Similar species *B. ferruginascens* has a similar leaf shape to several species of *Didymodon* (pp. 456–467), but these lack the red colour. It was formerly thought to be a variety of *B. recurvirostrum* (p. 442), but it lacks the spreading, bright green upper leaves of that species. The rare *B. caledonicum* (Smith, p. 299) is similarly reddish, but has broader leaves with coarsely toothed upper margins. It grows on permanently wet, calcareous rocks in the mountains in western Scotland.

Habitat This montane species grows on soil ledges, amongst base-rich rocks and on stream banks, either as pure turfs or sometimes mixed with other bryophytes. It can be quite frequent on British mountains, but it is somewhat scarcer in Ireland. *B. ferruginascens* also grows on mine waste.