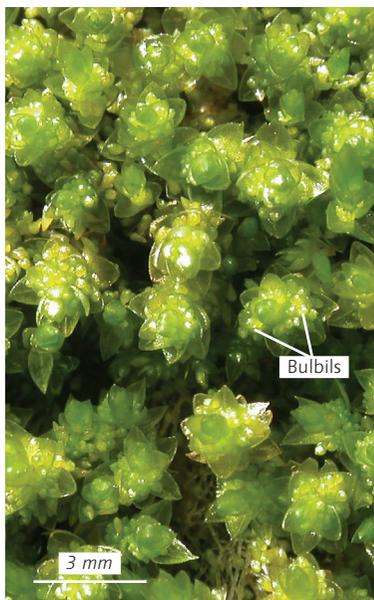
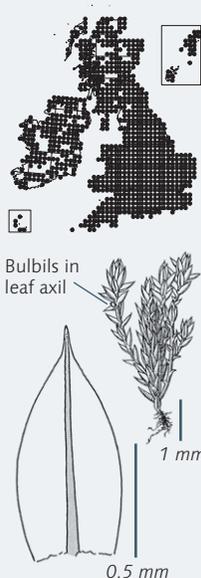


Bryum dichotomum

B. bicolor

Bicoloured Bryum

Key 177, 252



Identification

B. dichotomum is usually less than 1 cm tall, growing in compact tufts, or scattered shoots, with rather concave leaves which are short (2–2.5 mm) in relation to their width in comparison to many other *Bryum* species. 1–5 bulbils (about 1 mm long) frequently occur in many of the leaf axils. Pendulous, egg-shaped capsules are often produced in autumn and winter. They are rather rounded and short, varying in length between 1 and 2.5 mm, and pass abruptly into a seta which is only 8–15 mm long.

Similar species

Several other *Bryum* species also produce axillary bulbils (Smith, pp. 570–576; *Journal of Bryology* 31, 117–120); of these, only *B. gemmiferum* (p. 594) and *B. argenteum* (p. 596) are at all frequent. *B. gemmiferum* has many (20–30) small bulbils in each leaf axil and they are a paler, brighter green. It is a plant of sandier or wetter (or intermittently wet) places than *B. dichotomum*. *B. radiculosum* (p. 597) and *B. rubens* (p. 598) lack bulbils in the leaf axils. *B. dixonii* (Smith, p. 570) may resemble *B. dichotomum*, but lacks bulbils and grows in damp, base-rich soil on cliffs and in gullies and flushes in the mountains. *B. dixonii* also resembles the rare *B. mildeanum* (Smith, p. 586). *B. gemmilucens* (Smith, p. 571) has tiny, yellowish bulbils with almost no rudimentary leaves. *B. dyffrynense* (Smith, p. 575) has a reddish nerve and concave leaves that closely appress the stem and overlap each other, making the shoot tip look cylindrical. Bulbilliferous *Pohlia* species (pp. 606–607; Smith, pp. 601–609) differ from *B. dichotomum* in having leaves which are much longer than wide, and all except *P. drummondii* (p. 606) and *P. filum* (Smith, p. 604) have many bulbils in each axil.

Habitat

A widespread and common moss of disturbed soil, especially base-rich clays, for example compacted soil on and beside paths, roads and water courses, in gardens, fields, on waste ground, in quarries and sand dunes. *B. dichotomum* also grows on roofs, and on stone, for example on walls, cliffs and rocks by water courses.