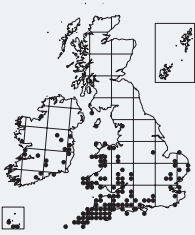


Bryum donianum

Don's Thread-moss



Thickened, yellowish leaf border

Identification

This species looks a lot like terrestrial forms of *B. capillare*. Its shoots rarely grow more than about 1 cm tall. Leaves are 1.75–2.75 mm long. The upper leaves form a compact tuft, and shrink and curl when dry (but do not become spirally twisted as with the normally taller *B. capillare*). The leaves are often widest above the middle, and the thickened, yellowish border is a prominent characteristic of this species. The nerve is also well-developed, and shortly excurrent. Capsules are rare, forming in spring and autumn.

Similar species

B. capillare (p. 586) is usually taller (typically 1–3 cm) and has spirally twisted leaves when dry, with a much more longly excurrent nerve, and a less-thickened border. Other similar species [*B. elegans*, *B. subelegans* (now regarded as a form of *B. pallens*, p. 584), *B. stirtonii* (now regarded as synonymous with *B. elegans*), *B. torquescens* and *B. canariense*, see Smith, pp. 547–556] are rare.

Habitat

B. donianum is a lowland species of well-drained soil, for example on grassy banks, in woods and quarries, and at the edges of paths; also in soil-filled crevices on walls and bridges.