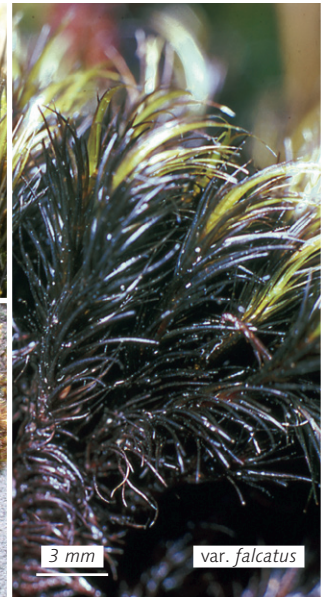
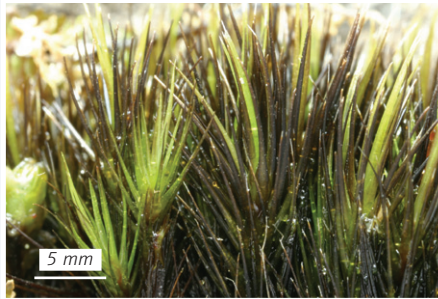
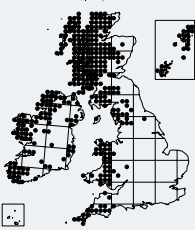


*Campylopus atrovirens*

Bristly Swan-neck Moss

Key 106



## Identification

A distinctive moss, forming robust, dark green to almost black cushions or patches with stems to 15 cm, but usually 5–10 cm, and only sparsely covered with rhizoids. Deciduous leaves or leaf fragments are often present on the cushion. Leaves are 3.5–9 mm long, erect and straight (or more rarely curved) when moist. They become appressed, erect and slightly wavy when dry. A conspicuous variety, var. *falcatus*, has leaves which are strongly curved and scarcely altered when dry, forming cushions with the curved shoots pointing in all directions (see right photograph). The leaf base is spearhead-shaped and tapers to a long, fine, entire tip composed largely of the nerve which is excurrent and ends in an almost white hair point that has strongly pointed teeth and is of variable length. The nerve is wide, filling up to 60% of the leaf width at the base, and the cells in the basal corners form distinct patches. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

## Similar species

The robust, dark green cushions and leaves with a wide nerve and almost white hair point are easily identified. Sometimes the hair point is hard to see, and then confusion is possible with both *C. setifolius* (p. 396) and *C. gracilis* (p. 392). However, the leaves of *C. setifolius* have sharply pointed teeth extending some way down the margins. *C. gracilis* forms fine, green cushions and is not as coarse a plant as *C. atrovirens*.

## Habitat

A conspicuous, hyperoceanic species of wet, peaty places and acidic rocks in the north and west where it may be remarkably abundant. It can form large patches in degraded wet heath, on boggy hillsides, wet rock slabs, wet crag ledges and in oceanic-montane heath.