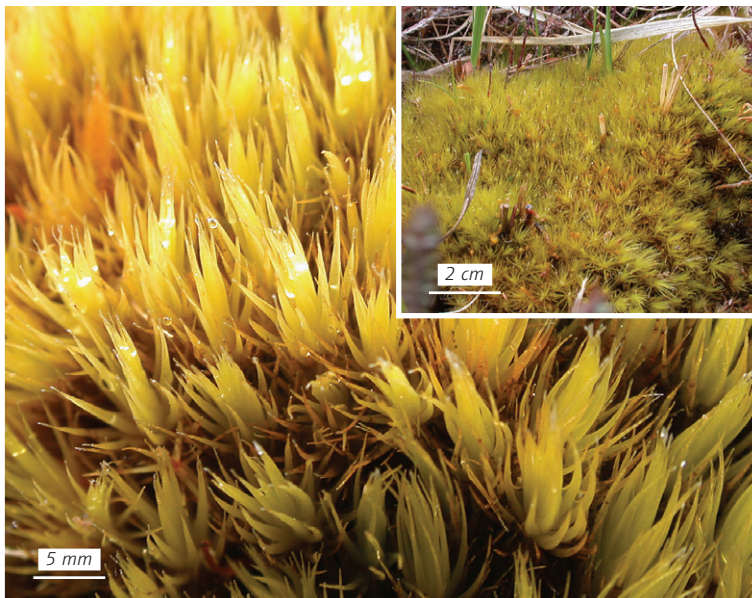
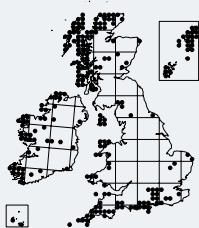


Campylopus brevipilus

Compact Swan-neck Moss

Key 107



Identification Yellow or yellow-green, occasionally with a black tinge, in dense cushions or patches to 7 cm tall. Leaves are 2.5–6 mm long, straight and erect when moist. They alter little when dry, and have a short, sometimes slightly reflexed, toothed, colourless hair point. Leaves are narrowly spearhead-shaped, tapering to a narrow tip, but quite variable in length and width; the nerve is wide, to 50% of the leaf width near the base, but variable and often much narrower. Capsules are very rare. Despite the density of the cushions, the shoots break apart quite easily, rather in the manner of *Leucobryum glaucum* (p. 403).

Similar species Dense, yellowish cushions with short hair points are relatively easy to recognize, but the hair point is variable and may be absent. *C. atrovirens* (p. 398) and *C. flexuosus* (p. 395) both occur in the same habitat and confusion is possible. *C. atrovirens* is usually a much darker green with a longer hair point, but some patches of *C. brevipilus* are peat-stained below and appear almost black. *C. flexuosus* can be a similar colour, but lacks hair points, and has conspicuous red rhizoids and red-brown patches of cells at the base of the leaves.

Habitat Most frequent as dense cushions or patches in boggy ground, often in relatively undisturbed mires, but it may also occur on shallow peat in wet heath and at the edge of pools. It has a curiously patchy distribution and is uncommon in some districts, such as Argyll, where it might be expected to be frequent.