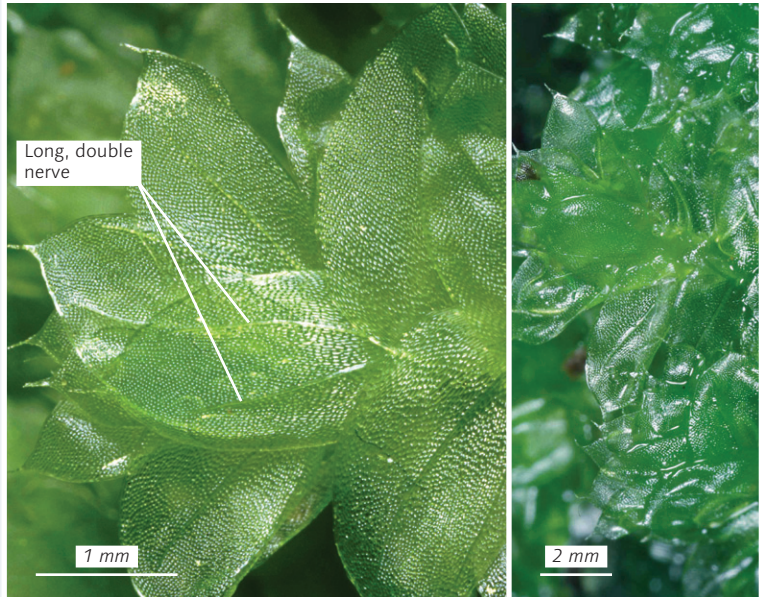
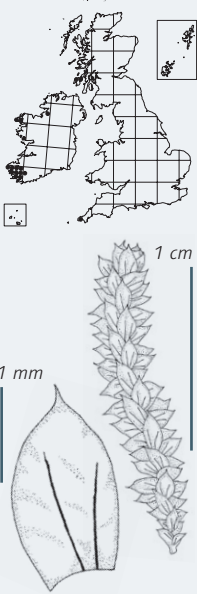


Cyclodictyon laetevirens

Bright Green Cave-moss



Identification

C. laetevirens forms glossy, dark green patches. The procumbent, flattened shoots grow up to 8 cm long, with the stems sparsely or densely covered with rhizoids. The oval or oval-oblong leaves are 2–2.5 mm long and about 1 mm wide at the middle, and taper abruptly at the tip. The nerve is double, diverging from the leaf base, and extending about three-quarters of the way to the leaf tip. Elongated cells form a narrow but distinct border to the margins of the leaf. Inclined or horizontal, egg-shaped or oblong capsules are rare in late summer and autumn. They are held on a stout seta about 2 cm tall.

Similar species

Calyptrochaeta apiculata (Smith, p. 702) has leaves with a very short nerve and a wider border of marginal cells, and it grows on rather dry, sheltered soil and rock. *C. apiculata* is an introduced species and is local on Tresco, Isles of Scilly, and also grows at two sites on the English mainland and at one site in Co. Cork. The leaves of *Hookeria lucens* (p. 667) have neither a nerve nor a border, and very large leaf-blade cells that are individually discernible when viewed through a hand lens. The leaves of *Plagiothecium* species (pp. 779–785) also lack the long, double nerve and border of elongated cells of *C. laetevirens*.

Habitat

C. laetevirens is very rare on wet, deeply shaded rock in caves by the sea, crevices by waterfalls and in ravines; also in block scree. In Ireland it has been found growing on the fronds of Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*). It is confined to coastal districts with a high rainfall.