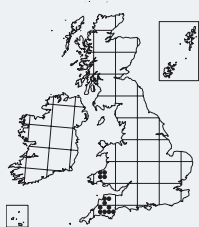


Dendrocryphaea lamyana

Cryphaea lamyana

Multi-fruited *Cryphaea*



Identification

This impressive moss usually grows as vigorous patches, with stems 5–10 cm long which are grey-green and curved when dry, but straighter when moist. In the details of its leaves and capsules, *D. lamyana* resembles *Cryphaea heteromalla*. Like *C. heteromalla*, *D. lamyana* has closely overlapping leaves up to 1.5 mm long, with nerves which extend to well over half the leaf length, but they taper to a narrow, blunt or shortly pointed tip. The capsules are almost hidden by surrounding leaves, closely spaced and borne on only one side of the stems. As with *C. heteromalla*, the leaves surrounding the capsule are more finely pointed than the ordinary stem leaves.

Similar species

Fruiting plants can only be confused with the closely related *Cryphaea heteromalla* (p. 672). *D. lamyana* is a coarser plant with stems which are usually longer and less branched, and curved rather than rigidly straight when dry. The crucial distinction lies in the leaves, which are more bluntly pointed than those of *C. heteromalla* and have margins which are plane rather than narrowly recurved towards the base. The lid of the capsules has a curved (not straight) beak, and the leaves around the base of the setae tend to have almost white rather than green margins.

Habitat

D. lamyana grows only on rocks and trees by the side of large rivers in south-west England and south-west Wales. It occurs above the normal water level, but in a zone which is frequently flooded.