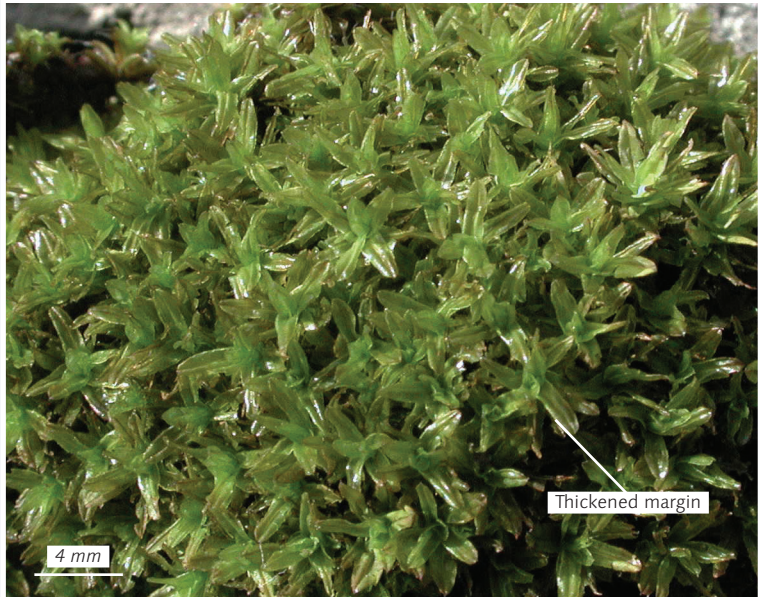
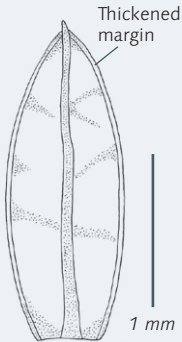
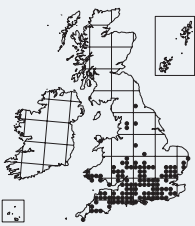


*Dialytrichia mucronata**Cinclidotus mucronatus*

Pointed Lattice-moss

Key 274

**Identification**

This moss forms short, erect tufts 2–4 mm tall, dark green above and almost black below. Leaves are 2–3.5 mm long, broadly tongue-shaped with a rounded tip and a thick, shortly excurrent nerve. Dry shoots become spirally twisted, and the nerve then looks pale and shiny. The leaves have margins that are obviously thickened and are quite strongly recurved near the base. The cylindrical capsules are rare in Britain and are borne on a seta 6–10 mm long, maturing in spring and summer.

**Similar species**

*Cinclidotus fontinaloides* (p. 502) and the rare *C. riparius* (Smith, p. 390) grow in similar places to *D. mucronata* and also have thickened leaf margins, but the leaves lack recurved margins, do not become spirally twisted when dry, and *C. fontinaloides* has capsules hidden among the leaves; moreover, they usually form irregular tufts rather than neat cushions or low tufts. *Syntrichia latifolia* (p. 501) also often grows with *D. mucronata*, but is not such a dark green, with leaves wider in the upper half than at the base and lacking thickened margins. The nerve also ends below the tip rather than being shortly excurrent. Forms of *Tortula subulata* (p. 475) on river banks may resemble *D. mucronata*, but *T. subulata* usually has characteristically large capsules present, and lacks thickened leaf margins. *D. fragilifolia* (*D. saxicola*) (*Journal of Bryology* 29, 228–234) is very similar to *D. mucronata*, but its leaves are more fragile, with rounded teeth on the margins towards the tip. However, the two species are best distinguished microscopically: the leaf margins of *D. fragilifolia* are 2 cells thick; those of *D. mucronata* are 2–4 cells thick. *D. fragilifolia* favours more shaded places than *D. mucronata*, and often grows further away from water courses.

**Habitat**

Found on tree boles and rocks in the flood zone of rivers and streams. It may also grow on the base of trees, and on stones and walls away from running water. It is fairly frequent on base-rich sandstone in the south-west, and is increasing on tarmac.