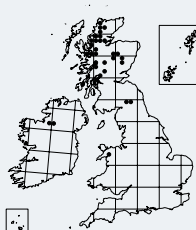


Dicranodontium asperulum

Orange Bow-moss



Identification Growing in rather lax, yellow-green to mid-green tufts and patches to 10 cm in depth. The leaves are 5–10 mm long, wavy and wispy when dry, and erect or tending to point in one direction when moist; more rarely they are curved and clearly pointing in one direction. The leaves have a relatively short, clasping, egg-shaped base that abruptly narrows into a long, sharply toothed point with teeth often extending down to the shoulders of the leaf base. The nerve is longly excurrent, toothed at the back above and about 30% of the width of the leaf near the base. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

Similar species *D. uncinatum* (p. 388) is usually darker green, has leaves that are more regularly curved and pointing in one direction and more distinct colourless patches near the nerve in the leaf base. *D. denudatum* (p. 390) does not have strongly toothed leaf margins extending down to the base like *D. asperulum*, but this can be hard to see with a hand lens. In addition, *D. denudatum* often displays deciduous leaves on its surface which, when present, are diagnostic. *D. asperulum* somewhat resembles *Campylopus setifolius* (p. 396) in habit and in the sharply toothed leaf margins, but *C. setifolius* is always dark green and has a wider nerve.

Habitat Like *D. uncinatum*, *D. asperulum* grows on organic soils in montane heath, in gullies, on ledges or at the base of crags, in sites which are humid but well-drained. It is rather less common than *D. uncinatum*, particularly on crags and in gullies. It can be locally abundant with large, oceanic-montane liverworts in rocky heath on sheltered, north-facing slopes.