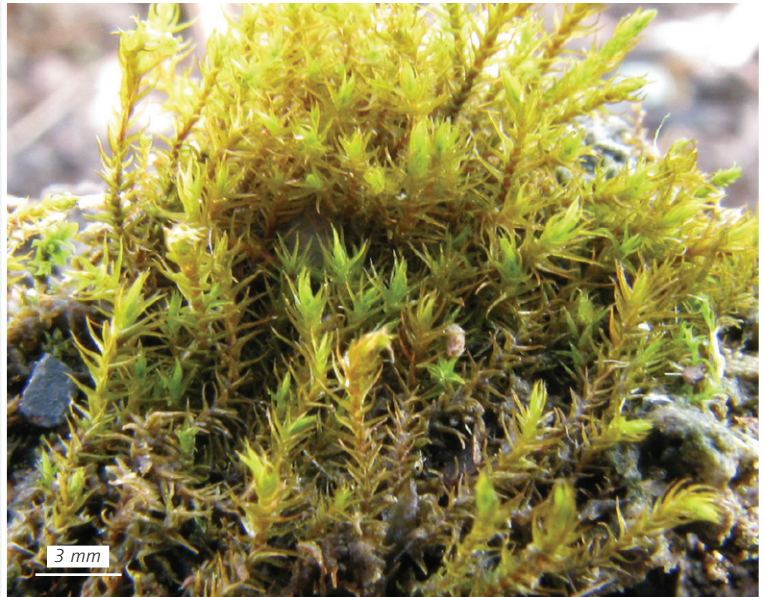
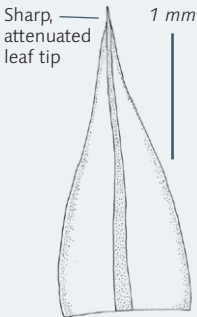
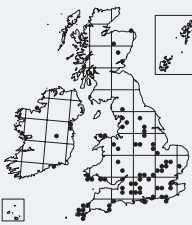


*Didymodon acutus**Barbula acuta*

Pointed Beard-moss



Identification Shoots form 1–2 cm tall, olive-green or brown tufts, whose darker colours contrasts with other mosses growing nearby. The leaves are about 1.5–2.5 mm long, with a tip that looks very sharp through a hand lens. Capsules are very rare in Britain, and mature in spring.

Similar species *D. fallax* (p. 457) has shorter (1–2 mm), less tapering leaves that are held more horizontally than those of *D. acutus*. *D. icmadophilus* (Smith, p. 317) is a rare moss of the uplands, has a longer, finer tip to its leaves, and grows in denser tufts. *D. rigidulus* (p. 459) is a dark green moss of stone, not soil. *D. vinealis* (p. 462) usually grows on stone, but may occur on calcareous soil. It looks very like *D. acutus*, but is usually a brighter yellow-green. *Pseudocrossidium hornschuchianum* (p. 440) has shorter (about 1–1.5 mm) leaves with broadly and greatly recurved margins. *Cheilothea chloropus* (p. 355) looks spikier and has plane leaf margins.

Habitat *D. acutus* grows on unshaded, well-drained, calcareous, bare soil or amongst thin turf on banks on chalk and limestone, for example in quarries. It may also occur in fixed dunes, and rarely on ledges and banks of shallow soil overlying base-rich rock in the mountains.