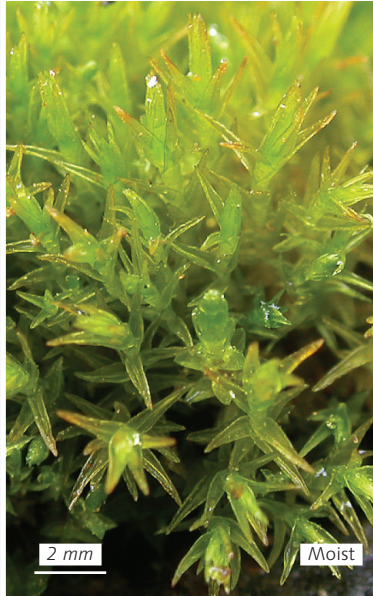
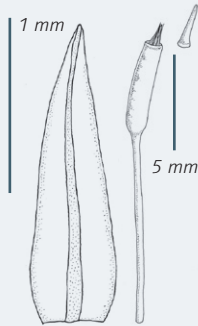
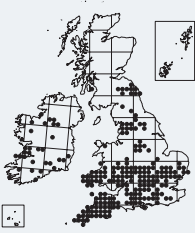


*Didymodon nicholsonii**Barbula nicholsonii*

Nicholson's Beard-moss

Key 179

**Identification**

Shoots are 0.5–2 cm tall, and form dark (often dingy olive- or brownish-green) tufts or patches. The leaves are about 1.5–3 mm long, with a characteristically boat-shaped tip. When moist, they are held straight and somewhat erect. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species

In leaf shape, *D. nicholsonii* is intermediate between the attenuated, narrow-tipped leaves of *D. rigidulus* (p. 459) and the more rounded tip of *D. luridus* (p. 461). *D. luridus* normally has shorter (1.25–1.75 mm long) leaves than *D. nicholsonii*. The leaves of *D. rigidulus* taper into a longer, narrower tip, and are also narrower towards the base of the leaves. *D. vinealis* (p. 462) is usually yellow-green and grows on dry stone. *D. spadiceus* (p. 458) holds its leaves almost horizontal when moist. The leaves of *Trichostomum crispulum* (p. 434) also have a tip shaped like the prow of a boat, but its shoots are yellow-green. Young *Schistidium crassipilum* (p. 511) has short hair points.

Habitat

A lowland species, probably widespread but under-recorded (or misidentified as other species), *D. nicholsonii* occurs on moist tarmac (e.g. driveways to houses), gravel paths and concrete. Its natural habitat, though, is the flood zone of rivers and streams, where it grows on stones, tree roots and wooden stumps, retaining walls and the bottoms of bridges.