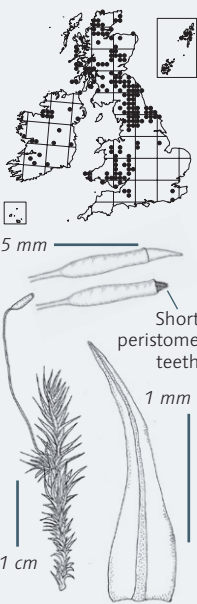


*Didymodon spadiceus**Barbula spadicea*

Brown Beard-moss

**Identification**

Greenish-brown shoots are typically 1.5–3 cm tall, with straight leaves (but recurved near the base) about 2–4 mm long, held nearly at right angles to the stem when moist. Cylindrical capsules are fairly frequent, and have short, straight peristome teeth.

Similar species

D. fallax (p. 457) is shorter (typically less than 1.5 cm tall) and has shorter (about 1–2 mm long) leaves that are recurved rather than straight. In addition, the peristome teeth are longer in *D. fallax* than those of *D. spadiceus*. *D. rigidulus* (p. 459) has shorter (about 1.5–3 mm long), narrower leaves with a more attenuated tip. *D. nicholsonii* (p. 460) holds its leaves more erect. *Blindia acuta* (p. 544) has a reddish stem, and leaves that are reddish at the basal angles and tend to curve in one direction.

Habitat

D. spadiceus characteristically grows on unstable soil banks, often by streams, and by seepages in gullies; also on stones and tree trunks by water courses, especially in base-rich places.