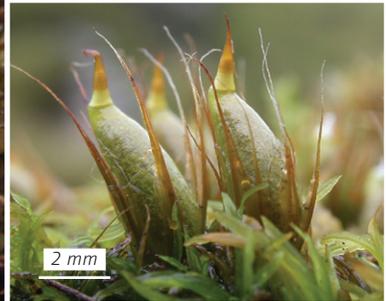
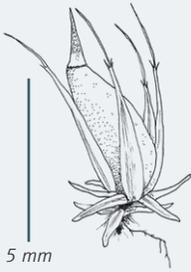
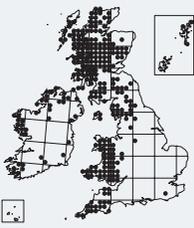


*Diphyscium foliosum*

Nut-moss

Key 85, 140



**Identification** Shoots of *D. foliosum* occur in small patches up to 5 mm tall. The leaves are dull brownish-green, undulate and strap-like, 4.5–6 mm long, with an acute or blunt tip. The poorly defined nerve is a useful character for non-fertile plants. When fertile, the plant is unmistakable, with sessile capsules about the shape and size of a grain of wheat (about 4 mm long and 2 mm wide), topped by an oblique lid. The leaves surrounding the capsule may be up to 8 mm long, and have long-toothed margins.

**Similar species** Non-fertile *D. foliosum* might be mistaken for *Trichostomum tenuirostre* (p. 435) or *Tortella tortuosa* (p. 428), which also have long, undulate leaves, but the leaves of those species are more tapering, translucent, and lack the dingy colour of *D. foliosum*. They also tend to form larger cushions or tufts. In addition, *Tortella tortuosa* is a plant of base-rich conditions.

**Habitat** Found on acidic soil in sheltered rock crevices and rocky banks, often on the vertical sides of streams and tracks. It can grow in quite shaded places, such as the steep sides of wooded valleys and ravines.