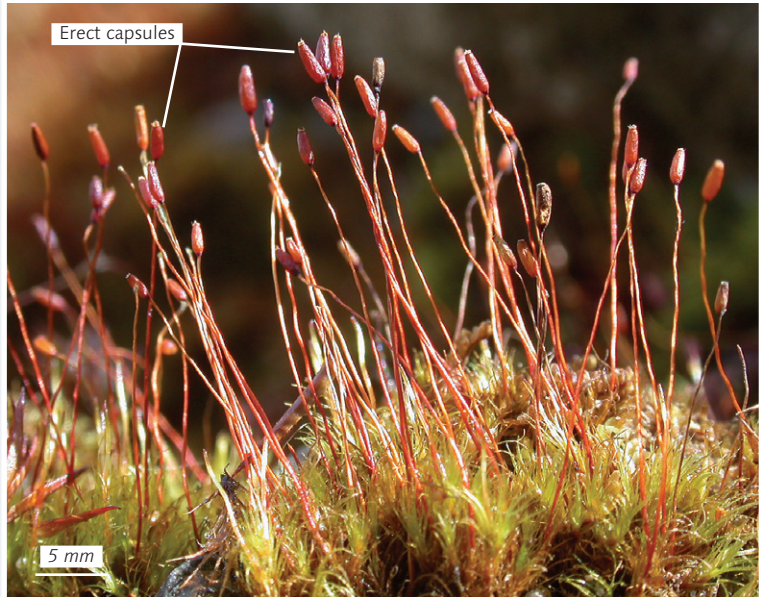
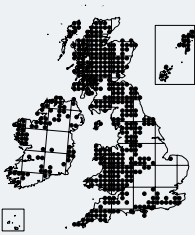


Ditrichum heteromallum

Curve-leaved Ditrichum

Key 146



Identification This small (up to 1 cm tall) moss forms lax, often extensive patches, mixed with other bryophytes. The shoots are normally rather dull yellowish-green, with about 2 mm long leaves that are erect or more often point slightly in one direction – particularly the upper leaves. The base of the leaf is egg-shaped, and narrows above to a long, fine tip composed mainly of a nerve that often extends beyond the tip. Narrow, cylindrical capsules are common, often abundant, and held erect. The seta is reddish-purple below, yellowing above.

Similar species Similar to a number of other small mosses of disturbed mineral soil, particularly species of *Dicranella* (pp. 366–371). Unlike *Ditrichum heteromallum*, almost all *Dicranella* species have inclined (rather than erect) capsules. In the absence of fruit, it can also be very difficult to distinguish from *D. zonatum* (p. 347).

Habitat Growing on disturbed mineral soil in a wide variety of habitats including heathy banks, old quarries, eroding streambanks and on gravel tracks. In Scotland it is abundant on the sides and cuttings of forest tracks.