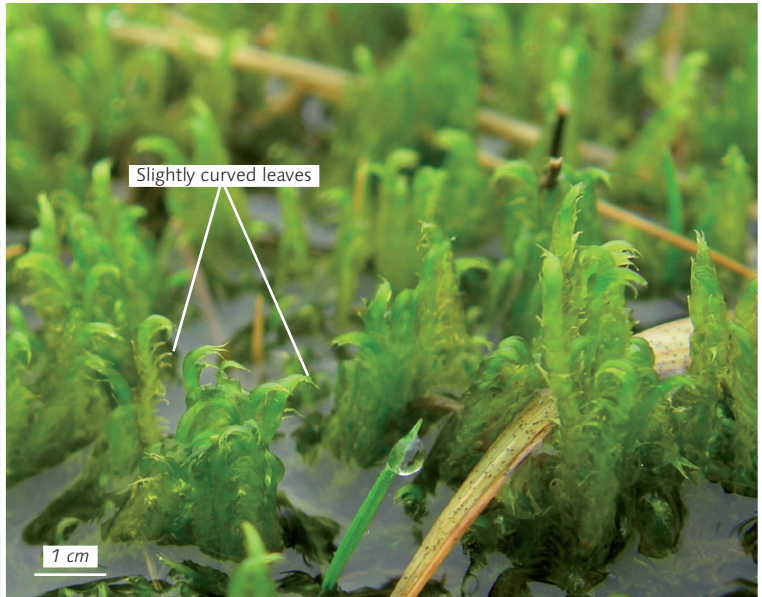
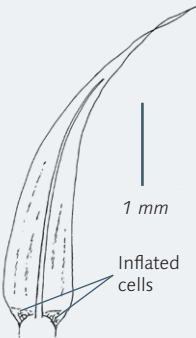
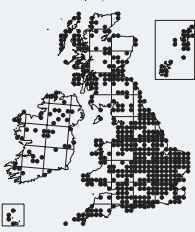


*Drepanocladus aduncus**D. polycarpus*

Knieff's Hook-moss

Key 317, 321

**Identification**

This very variable species is the only common lowland Hook-moss. Two main forms occur, although these are connected by a series of intermediates. One is many centimetres long, dark green, sparsely branched, with about 5 mm long, tapering, straight or slightly curved leaves, and floats in shallow pools and ditches. The other form is lighter green, smaller, upright and well-branched, has strongly curved leaves and favours temporary wetlands. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species

Warnstorfia fluitans (p. 717) is macroscopically almost identical to lax forms of *D. aduncus*, but grows in base-poor pools. *D. sendtneri* (Smith, p. 779) is often glossier and reddish-brown, and has a strikingly thick nerve. It is rather rare in and beside pools in sand dunes, and hollows and pits on calcareous ground. Some forms of *D. aduncus* have brown basal cells, so microscopical checking is essential. Small forms of *D. aduncus* look very similar to *Cratoneuron filicinum* (p. 701), but have weaker nerves, not extending to the leaf tip, and lack tiny leaf-like structures, even on the lower part of the stem. *Leptodictyum riparium* (p. 707) usually has shoots that are arranged more or less in one plane, and lacks the inflated cells that *D. aduncus* has in the basal corners of its leaves.

Habitat

D. aduncus is locally abundant in lowland pools, ditches and fens, especially in clayey parts of England. The large plants typical of these permanent wetlands are also found in mineral-rich dune slacks. Smaller forms grow in temporary wetlands, such as shallow pools in gravel pits, on quarry floors or in wet pastures. Most records from flushes in the north and west are erroneous: *D. aduncus* is not typical of flushes.