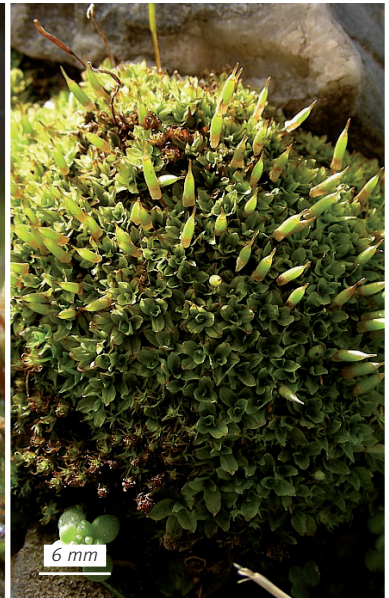
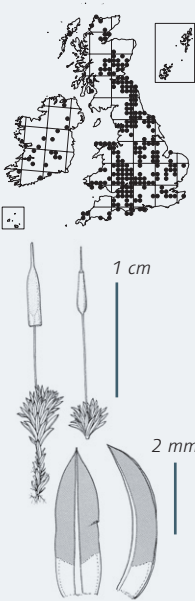


Encalypta vulgaris

Common Extinguisher-moss

Key 258

**Identification**

Shoots form loose tufts or cushions less than 1.5 cm tall. Leaves are about 3 mm long. Identifying this frequent, lowland calcicole without capsules is very unsafe; fortunately, they are usually present. Young capsules persist for a considerable time, so are often found. Ripe capsules are smooth, have a rudimentary or absent peristome, and until maturity are entirely covered by a very large, unfringed calyptra. Capsules arise from between rosettes of broad, more or less parallel-sided, opaque, very matt leaves, abruptly narrowed to the tip. The nerve ends below the tip or is shortly excurrent.

Similar species

The very large calyptra over the capsule confirms this as a species of *Encalypta*. It differs from *E. ciliata* (p. 559) by the unfringed calyptra, and from *E. raptocarpa* (p. 555) and *E. streptocarpa* (p. 557) by its smooth capsules. The very rare *E. brevicollis* (Smith, p. 500) has the upper part of the back of the nerve not shiny (because it is roughened), and its capsules have a peristome.

Habitat

Base-rich substrates generally, and tending to be a lowland species.