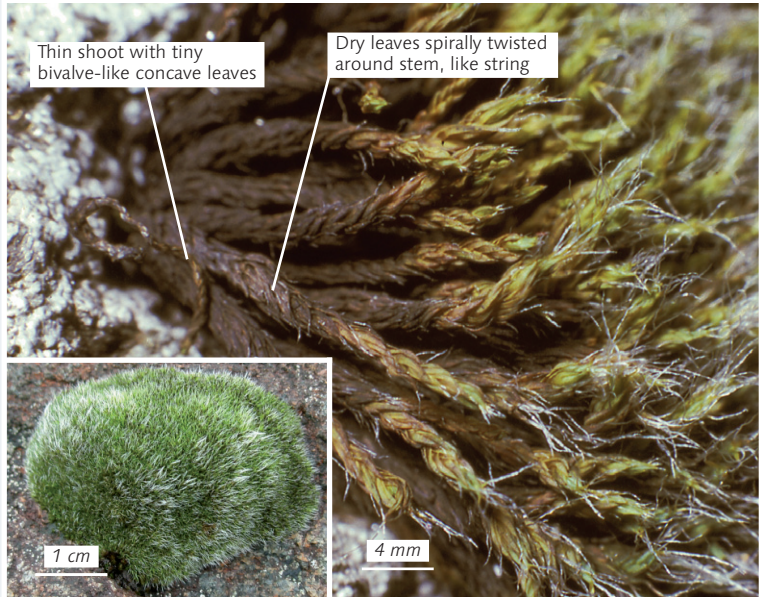
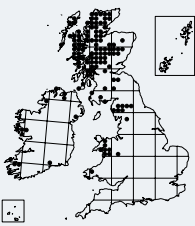


Grimmia funalis

String Grimmia



Identification This *Grimmia* forms neat or sprawling, dark green to blackish-grey cushions that readily break apart when removed from the substrate. Shoots are 2–4 cm long, with leaves approximately 2–3 mm long. Dry leaves twist spirally around the stem, giving the shoots a string-like appearance, but this is not always apparent. Wet leaves spread, so the spiral arrangement is then less obvious. Whether wet or dry, thin shoots with small, strongly concave leaves (like one half of a bivalve mollusc) are diagnostic. These are usually mixed amongst normal shoots inside the cushion (break open a cushion and examine with a hand lens to see the short, spirally arranged leaves). Capsules are uncommon.

Similar species Forms of *G. funalis* can be difficult to distinguish from other species, such as *G. trichophylla* (p. 529), particularly when they seem to lack spirally arranged leaves. Other *Grimmia* species may also have long, thin shoots with smaller leaves (these act as vegetative propagules), but the reduced leaves are less strongly concave and the tip is usually slightly reflexed; in *G. funalis* there is no hint of a bent back tip (use a hand lens).

Habitat Found on a range of rocks, but usually indicating some degree of base-richness, on dry to periodically moist crags, ledges and scree, usually above 300 m.