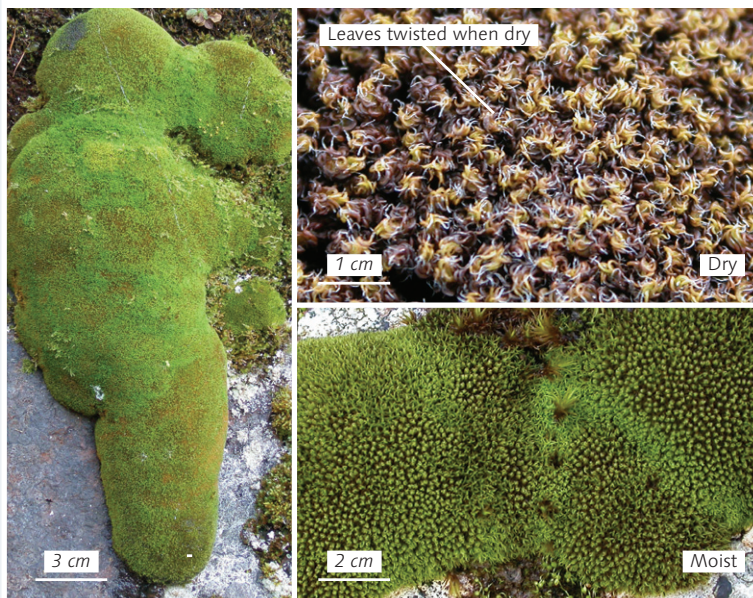
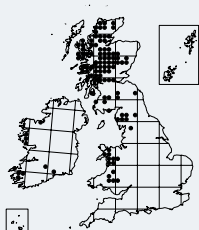


Grimmia torquata

Twisted Grimmia



Identification At first glance, *G. torquata* does not look like a *Grimmia*. Rather than the usual blackish-grey *Grimmia* colour, it is olive-brown when dry, contrasting with light green shoot tips, and hair points that are so small they are only apparent through a hand lens. The rounded cushions can be up to 5 cm deep, but are usually much smaller. The best field character is the strongly, spirally twisted leaves when dry, with wavy uppermost leaves. The leaves are 1–1.5 mm long, spread out from the stem when moist, and have recurved margins. Capsules are not known in the British Isles.

Similar species This species is unlikely to be mistaken for another *Grimmia*, whereas confusion with a member of the Pottiales, such as *Amphidium mougeotii* (p. 641) or *Anoetangium aestivum* (p. 452), is possible. However, the leaf tip gradually tapering into a short, silvery hair point will indicate *Grimmia*. *G. elongata* (Smith, p. 442) forms brown cushions, usually on sloping, flushed rocks at high altitude. It has leaves that are only slightly wavy when dry, but it is very difficult to identify without a microscope.

Habitat *G. torquata* grows on sheltered or exposed, base-rich rocks such as basalt or Old Red Sandstone, especially where the rock is periodically damp or flushed. It is most frequent on cliff faces, but sometimes occurs on boulders or in scree. It is often associated with *G. funalis* (p. 528).