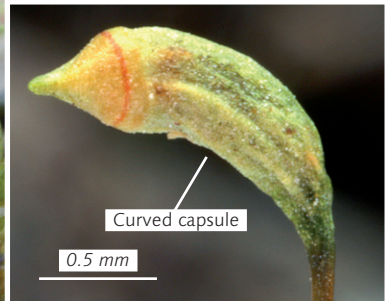
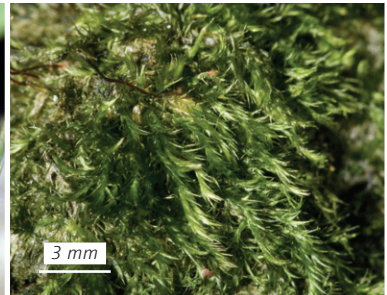
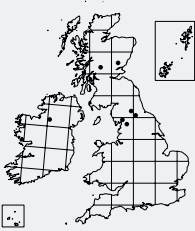


*Homomallium incurvatum*

Incurved Feather-moss



**Identification** A slender, prostrate, glossy green, patch-forming moss, with creeping, irregularly pinnate shoots, 1–2 mm long, that are closely appressed to the substrate and have numerous short, erect branches. Its leaves are about 1 mm long, curve regularly upwards, and are abruptly contracted at or near mid-leaf to a relatively broad tip. The nerve is short, double and indistinct, and a small triangular patch of thick-walled but not inflated cells occurs at the basal leaf margins. It is commonly fertile, the distinctive capsule (about 1 mm long) progressively curving as it matures.

**Similar species** *Rhynchostegiella tenella* (p. 771) occurs in the same habitat and is superficially similar, but has extremely narrow leaves with a distinct single nerve. Confusion is perhaps most likely with *Hypnum resupinatum* (p. 805), which shares its upswept curving foliage, or slender forms of *Hypnum cupressiforme* (p. 802), but these species are usually larger and have only slightly curved capsules. In the absence of the very distinctive capsules of *H. incurvatum*, microscopical study of the leaf shape and cells in the basal corners is needed for confirmation. *Pylaisia polyantha* (p. 799) and *Platygyrium repens* (p. 800) are also both very similar, but grow on bark.

**Habitat** An uncommon species that has certainly declined, but which may be somewhat overlooked. It is a moss of moderately shaded, base-rich rocks in humid but not wet environments. Apparently preferring small rocks less than 30 cm across, and growing close to ground level where the ground vegetation is sparse, sometimes on rocks in drystone walls in woodland, very rarely on rock ledges on crags.