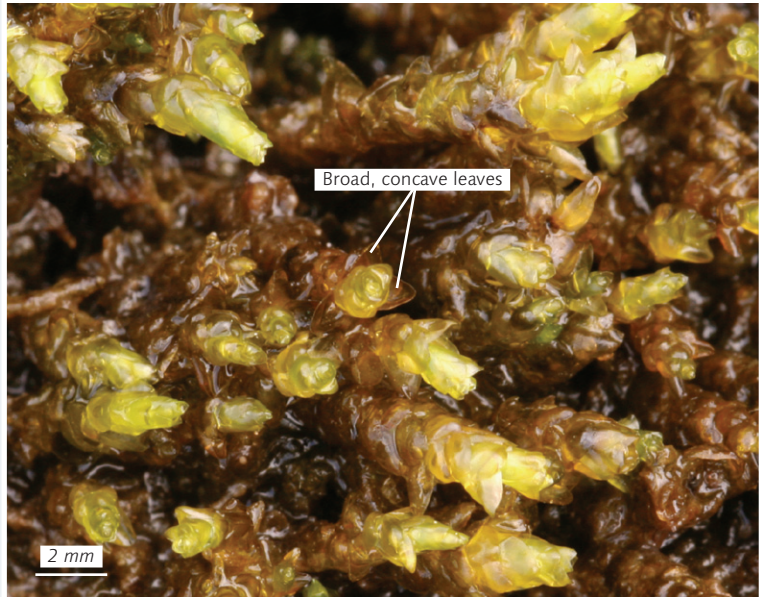
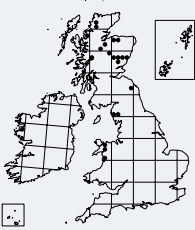


Hygrohypnum duriusculum

Broad-leaved Brook-moss



Identification Broad, concave leaves make the rather rigid shoots of *H. duriusculum* look swollen. Shoots reach about 8 cm long, though often shorter, and are sparsely branched. The larger leaves are about 1.75 mm long, and are broadly egg-shaped to nearly circular, appressed or spreading, concave (though sometimes nearly flat), with a blunt or broadly pointed tip. The leaves often curve slightly to one side. They have a short, double nerve. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species *H. molle* (Smith, p. 807) is similar, but is very rare and confined to high altitudes in Scotland. It is a softer plant with straight leaves and, because of their texture, the individual leaves stand out less obviously than they do in *H. duriusculum*. Among other aquatic pleurocarps of mountain streams, only *H. smithii* (p. 733) has leaves as broad as *H. duriusculum* and *H. molle*. However, *H. smithii* differs in having a distinct single nerve, and its leaves are often more markedly circular. *Platyhypnidium alopecuroides* (p. 759) occurs in rocky streams and has concave leaves with blunt or a broadly pointed tip, but they are narrower, being egg-shaped to oblong.

Habitat *H. duriusculum* is rare on rocks in mountain streams in north Wales, north England and Scotland. It mostly occurs at moderate altitudes, but descends to low levels in Scotland.