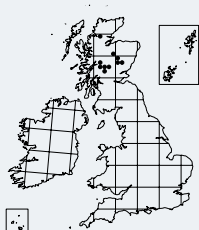


# *Hygrohypnum smithii*

Arctic Brook-moss



**Identification** This rare but distinctive moss of mountain streams has rigid stems, typically several centimetres long, often denuded at the base and irregularly branched, forming yellowish-green or brownish patches. The leaves are distinctively circular to very broadly egg-shaped, only slightly longer than wide (1.25 mm long and 1 mm wide), and with a rounded or broadly pointed tip. They spread widely when moist, and do not curve. The other important character is the presence of a well-developed single nerve reaching about halfway up the leaf. Capsules are rare.

**Similar species** The combination of almost circular leaves, a single nerve and aquatic habitat distinguishes this species from other pleurocarps. *H. duriusculum* (p. 732) differs in the shorter, double nerve and often slightly curved leaves.

**Habitat** Known only from mountain streams in a few localities at high altitudes (700 m or more) in Scotland.