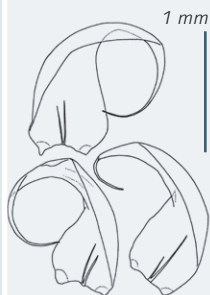
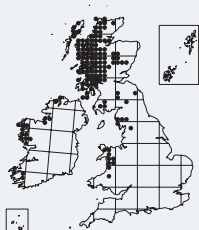


Hypnum callichroum

Downy Plait-moss



Identification *H. callichroum* forms soft, open and loose, slender, glossy, pale, bright or yellowish-green patches and turfs. Its shoots are arranged in one plane and somewhat pinnately branched. The concave leaves are very strongly curved and all turned to the same side, 1–2.5 mm long, and taper to a long, fine tip that is wavy when dry. The nerve is absent or very faint and short. Large, thin-walled, colourless cells occur at the basal margins of the leaves. Capsules occasionally form in summer, becoming a bright orange-brown as they mature, and are borne on a disproportionately long seta.

Similar species Shoots of *H. jutlandicum* (p. 806) are not so pale, delicate, or lax in form, and its leaves are less strongly curved. *H. imponens* (p. 807) has reddish-brown stems. *H. hamulosum* (p. 810) is smaller and lacks enlarged cells at the basal angles of its leaves. *H. bambergeri* (p. 808) is not so regular in its branching, or so lax, and is usually browner.

Habitat *H. callichroum* grows in sheltered places, on acidic or base-rich rock (but not limestone), in turf on mountains, in woods, gullies, on stream banks and in ravines, and between boulders in block scree. In western Scotland it may occur at low altitudes, but in the east it prefers mountains.