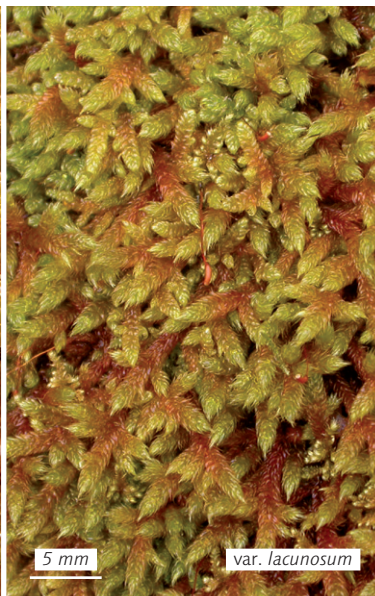
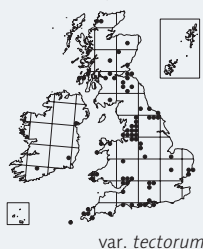
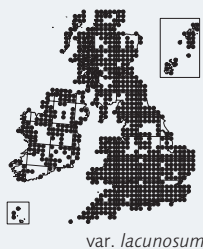


Hypnum lacunosum var. *lacunosum*/ var. *tectorum*

Great/Roof Plait-moss

Key 306



Identification

H. lacunosum is an attractive, robust moss. Var. *lacunosum* typically has warm golden brown to orange-brown shoots, 1.5–2 mm wide. The curved, somewhat concave (at least compared to some other species of *Hypnum*) leaves are usually less than 2 mm long, and not closely appressed to the stem, resulting in a somewhat swollen appearance. The leaves of var. *tectorum* are less curved than in var. *lacunosum*, except sometimes at the tip, and the colour is less vivid, typically a warm brownish rather than a yellow-brown or orange-brown. Capsules are unknown in var. *tectorum*. Var. *lacunosum* occasionally produces capsules; these are about 3 mm long. Although many specimens are distinctive, var. *tectorum* is no longer considered separate from var. *lacunosum*, and both are now designated as *H. cupressiforme* var. *lacunosum*.

Similar species

H. cupressiforme (p. 802) usually differs in the smaller size and less swollen shoots, but some forms of each species may be impossible to distinguish in the field. The very rare, montane *H. vaucheri* (Smith, p. 900) is known from four sites in Scotland, and looks like a miniature *H. lacunosum*.

Habitat

This species is found in somewhat calcareous places, on well-drained soil or over siliceous rock and limestone, often in sunny situations. Occasionally it may occur on logs or on the base of well-lit trees with base-rich bark.

