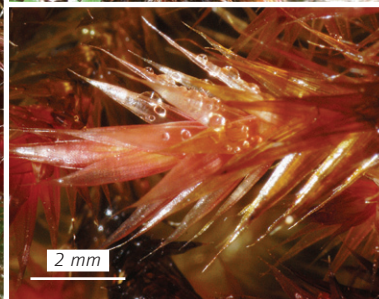
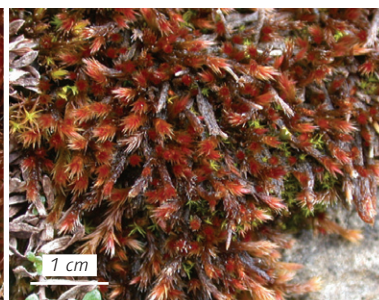
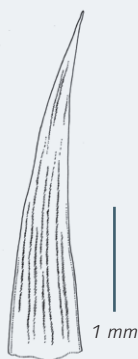
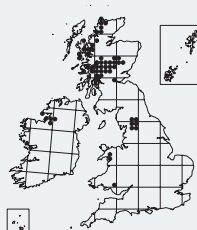


Orthothecium rufescens

Red Leskea



Identification Typically wine-pink or reddish shoots of this robust moss with sparingly branched, prostrate stems are unmistakable, but *O. rufescens* may sometimes be greenish with only a tinge of pink, and then it is less distinctive. Its shoots may be several centimetres long. The leaves are 2–4 mm long, and gradually taper from the base to a long narrow tip, and are strongly pleated. The nerve is very short or absent. Capsules are rare.

Similar species Difficult to confuse with other species. *O. intricatum* (p. 776) is usually pink, and is slender and lacks pleated leaves.

Habitat *O. rufescens* grows on wet, base-rich rocks on flushed faces, in seeping crevices and in moist overhangs, on limestone and on base-rich, siliceous rocks.