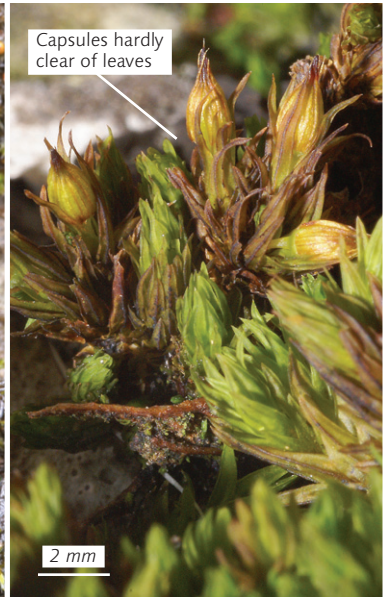
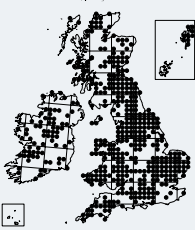


*Orthotrichum cupulatum*

Hooded Bristle-moss

Key 184, 218



**Identification** The capsules of *O. cupulatum* are produced in the spring, making it readily identifiable for a limited period; the rest of the year it is too easily confused with non-fertile *O. anomalum* to allow identification. Unripe capsules are light green and contrast with the dark green leaves that surround them; ripe capsules are mid-brown and are furrowed when old and dry. Setae are only 1–1.5 mm long, and there are 16 light green, erect outer peristome teeth. The calyptra is light green, and either sparsely hairy or hairless. Shoots are up to 2 cm long, with leaves 3.5–4 mm long, and capsules about 2 mm long.

**Similar species** *O. cupulatum* often grows with *O. anomalum* (p. 656), but *O. anomalum* holds its reddish capsules clear of the leaves, whereas *O. cupulatum* holds its brown capsules hardly clear of the surrounding leaves. *O. rivulare* (p. 650) has a blunt rather than acute leaf tip, and 8 reflexed outer peristome teeth (identification of plants with unripe capsules requires a microscope). *O. rupestre* (p. 655) has a very hairy calyptra and 8 outer peristome teeth that are erect when dry.

**Habitat** Each spring, bryologists realize that *O. cupulatum* is commoner than previously thought, as it starts fruiting in church gutters and on tomb tops and walls. It generally prefers slightly damper habitats than *O. anomalum*, but the two often grow together. Natural limestone also supports colonies, especially in disused quarries. Tall, branched forms of *O. cupulatum* grow on stone blocks or tree roots by rivers. It is not found on acidic rock.