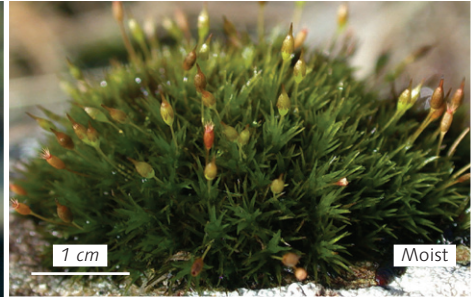
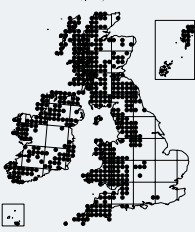


Ptychomitrium polyphyllum

Greater Pincushion

Key 133, 208



Identification This is a medium-sized to rather robust (shoots up to about 4 cm tall) pincushion species, with leaves strongly crisped when dry. The leaves are about 4 mm long and narrowly spearhead-shaped. They are coarsely but distantly toothed above, the teeth being easily visible under a 20 hand lens. Capsules are common, large, rather elongated, held on a long (7 mm, or occasionally shorter) seta and equipped in the spring with long, straight peristome teeth that are shed later in the summer.

Similar species Other robust, cushion-forming mosses such as species of *Dicranoweisia* (pp. 364–365), *Oreoweisia* (p. 358), *Tortella* (pp. 428–432), *Orthotrichum* (pp. 646–657) or *Ulota* (pp. 658–664) may be taken for this species, particularly in the absence of capsules, but the coarse, distant teeth on the leaves of *Ptychomitrium* are usually sufficient to distinguish it from these. *Glyphomitrium daviesii* (p. 542) is similar in growth form, but is normally a much smaller plant, and its capsule and peristome teeth are quite different.

Habitat On exposed or slightly shaded, normally acidic or only weakly base-rich rocks. *P. polyphyllum* is a common plant in the north and west, particularly in coastal districts, where it is often an abundant component of the community of maritime bryophytes.