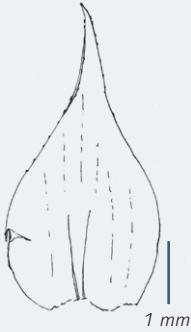
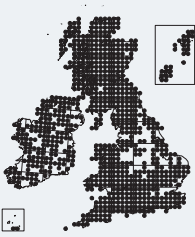


Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus

Big Shaggy-moss

Key 328

**Identification**

R. triquetrus is a very large, bushy moss that forms shoots from 5 to 15 or 20 cm long, with irregularly branched, red stems. Whether wet or dry, the leaves stick out in all directions (unlike *R. loreus*). The leaves, which can be up to 6 mm long, are straight and have a pale, chaffy appearance, giving the shoot a unique, rather untidy character. The leaf has a double nerve, which extends about halfway up the blade, and the margins are lightly toothed. Capsules are rare to occasional.

Similar species

No other mosses have this large, bushy character or chaffy leaves. *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* (p. 820) looks similar, but its stems and branches appear furry, being covered by many branched filaments.

Habitat

R. triquetrus grows on calcareous ground in woodland, and also on acidic ground in woods of native pine (*Pinus*). It can also be found in open grassland on chalk, on sand dunes and in churchyards.