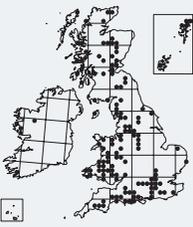
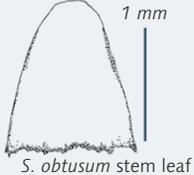
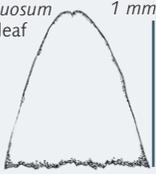
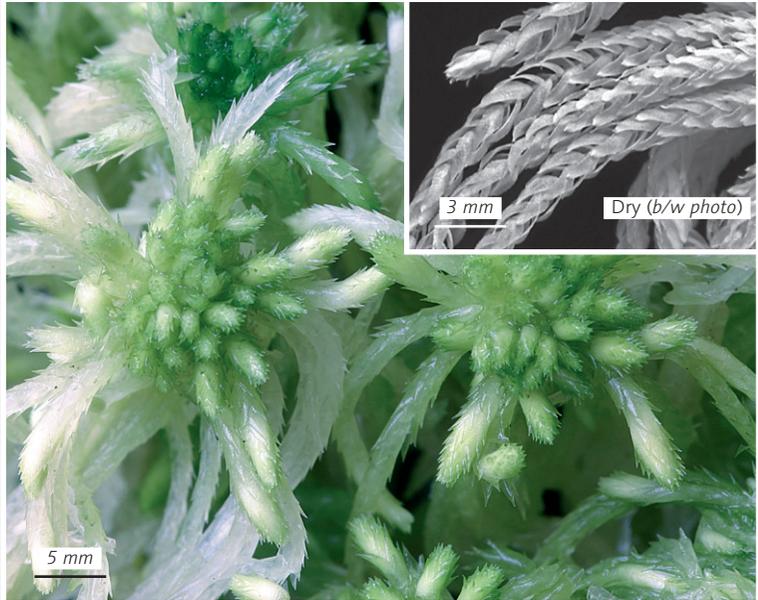


*Sphagnum flexuosum**S. recurvum* var. *amblyphyllum*

Flexuous Bog-moss

Section Cuspidata

*S. flexuosum* stem leaf*S. obtusum* stem leaf

Identification

A medium-sized species that grows in carpets; green, or with a yellowish tinge; never a strong mustard-brown. Stem and branches are pale, never with any pink. Outer capitulum branches are particularly long and pale, stellate, contrasting with inner branches, which are often concentrically arranged when viewed from above. Pendent and spreading branches are not as clearly differentiated as in *S. fallax* and *S. angustifolium*. Pendent branches are usually shorter than spreading branches. Spreading branch leaves are, at most, in straight lines in the basal two-thirds of the branch. Branch leaves are larger and more loosely inserted than in *S. angustifolium*, giving a shaggy appearance. Stem leaves are triangularly tongue-shaped to tongue-shaped, longer than wide, and with a blunt, more or less fringed tip. When dry, the spreading branch leaves have a puffed out appearance (see inset photograph). Capsules are not known in Britain and Ireland.

Similar species

S. flexuosum differs from *S. angustifolium* (p. 307) and *S. fallax* (p. 306) in the shape of its stem leaves, lack of differentiation between branches, lack of pink in branches and stem, and different appearance when dry. *S. flexuosum* is more likely to be confused with *S. fallax* than with *S. angustifolium*. *S. obtusum* (Smith, p. 99) is close to *S. flexuosum* in appearance, but is more robust, sometimes brownish, and has branch leaves more conspicuously in straight lines. Its stem leaves are very blunt-tipped. It has not been recorded in Britain since 1911.

Habitat

Grows in slightly mineral-rich sites, for example poor fens and wet woodland. Slightly more base-demanding than *S. fallax*, though often growing with that species. Scarce in the most acidic habitats. This is probably an under-recorded species.