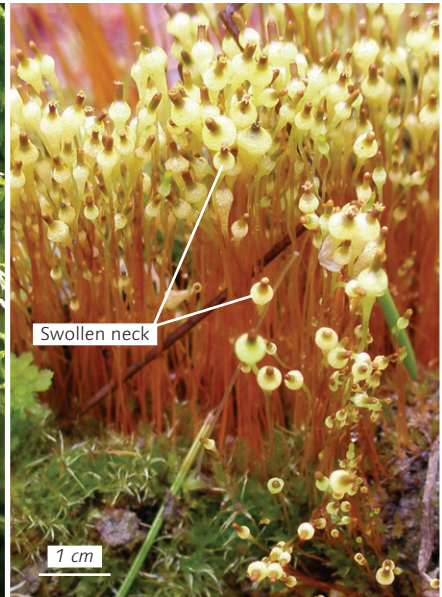
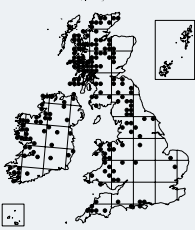


*Splachnum ampullaceum*

Cruet Collar-moss

Key 168



**Identification** This is a scarce, but locally abundant lowland species of *Splachnum*, which forms dense patches of closely packed shoots 1–3 cm tall, with toothed (often strongly toothed) leaves 3–5 mm long. Capsules are common and unmistakable, with a swollen and expanded neck much wider than the rest of the capsule. This probably acts as a platform for flies that disperse the spores. The deep red seta is slightly wavy.

**Similar species** Not easily confused with any other species when fertile. The capsule of *S. sphaericum* (p. 570) does not have an inflated neck, and the leaves are entire or only obscurely toothed. The very much rarer *S. vasculosum* (Smith, p. 520) also has an inflated neck, but differs from *S. ampullaceum* in its leaves being untoothed and very broadly egg-shaped. *S. vasculosum* is a plant of base-rich flushes in the uplands. *Tetraplodon* species (p. 569) also grow on dung, but have leaves that taper to a long, thin tip.

**Habitat** *S. ampullaceum* carpets lumps of herbivore dung in wet areas on bogs, especially at low altitudes in the north and west.