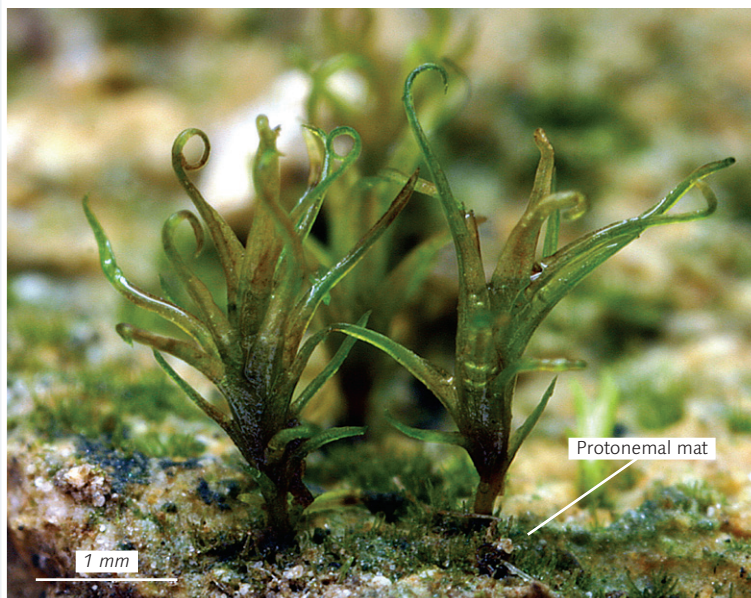
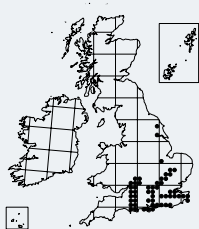


Tortella inflexa

Sassari Crisp-moss



Identification This tiny (shoots 2–6 mm tall) moss forms turfs on pebbles of chalk or oolitic limestone. Plants grow from a dark, brown-green protonemal mat that renders patches conspicuous. Moist plants hold their straight leaves upwards; the leaves curl up when dry. The leaf is less than 2 mm long, usually channelled and the tip is slightly hooded.

Similar species *T. inflexa* might be confused with young plants of *T. tortuosa* (p. 428), but these have spreading leaves and lack the protonemal mat. It could also be confused with other tiny acrocarps, such as *Didymodon australasiae* var. *umbrosus* (p. 467), *Gymnostomum calcareum* (p. 450) and *Leptobarbula berica* (p. 474), but none of these species hold their leaves upright or have a channelled leaf with a hooded tip. The latter feature is reminiscent of the much larger *Trichostomum crispulum* (p. 434).

Habitat *T. inflexa* almost always grows on small pebbles of chalk or soft oolitic limestone, and may cover the upper surface of stones on the woodland floor, in scrub, calcareous grassland, and even in stubble fields. *T. inflexa* occasionally grows on larger stones.