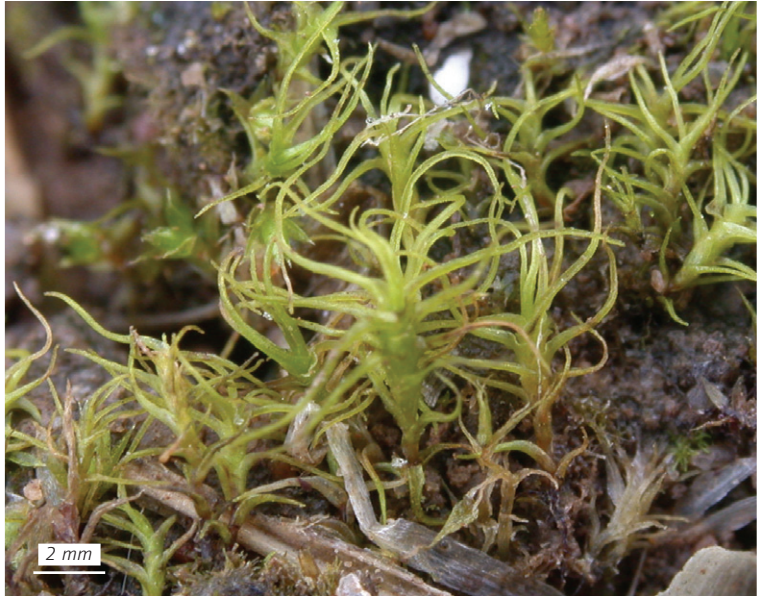
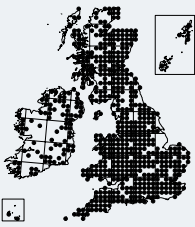


*Trichodon cylindricus**Ditrichum cylindricum*

Cylindric Ditrichum

Key 142



Identification This is the 'Miss Whiplash' of British mosses. Shoots are up to 5 mm tall. Mature plants have an expanded leaf base which sheaths the stem and contracts abruptly to a leaf blade which is long and narrow, rather wavy and minutely toothed. Leaves are 2–2.5 mm long. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species Several species can be very troublesome to distinguish from *T. cylindricus* in the field, although they are easy to identify microscopically. Young plants of *Dicranella schreberiana* (p. 368) are indistinguishable in the field and even mature material is not easy to distinguish, although *D. schreberiana* has a more sheathing leaf base and a less whip-like leaf blade. *Leptobryum pyriforme* (p. 576) is also similar, but the leaves of mature plants tend to be clustered at the stem tip and in some habitats it fruits freely. Vegetative *Pleuridium subulatum* (p. 340) may also need to be collected for microscopical examination.

Habitat *T. cylindricus* grows in acidic habitats, and is often abundant in stubble fields. It also grows in sand pits and gravel pits, on the banks of streams and rivers, disturbed roadsides, and sometimes on seasonally flooded ground at the edge of lakes and reservoirs.