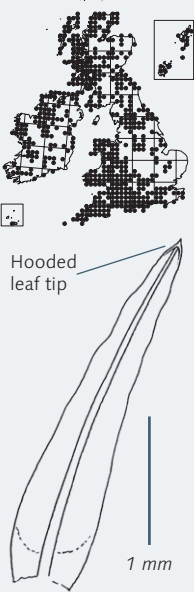


Trichostomum crispulum

Curly Crisp-moss

Key 187, 245

**Identification**

Shoots form tufts or patches, typically 1–2 cm tall, yellow-green or deep green above and light brown below. Leaves are 2–2.5 mm long, curled and crisped when dry, and glossy on the back. When moist, it is easy to see the characteristically hooded tip of the leaves (like the prow of a boat) when viewed from the side. However, the leaf margins are not inrolled, as they are in most *Weissia* species. The leaves may vary greatly in shape, but nearly always have a hooded tip. Oblong or oval-oblong capsules are produced rarely in spring. They have a reddish peristome and are borne on a reddish-yellow seta.

Similar species

The leaves of *T. brachydontium* (p. 433) are typically wider, held at a wider angle away from the stem, and lack a hooded tip. *Didymodon nicholsonii* (p. 460) often has a hooded leaf tip, but is usually darker than *T. crispulum*. *Tortella inflexa* (p. 431) also has channelled leaves with a slightly hooded tip, but is much smaller.

Habitat

T. crispulum grows on shaded or unshaded calcareous or base-rich rock ledges, and may abound on the damp floors of disused limestone quarries. It also occurs on mortar and in crevices of walls, in shallow turf, in calcareous dunes, on stream banks, and on limestone chippings beside forestry tracks.