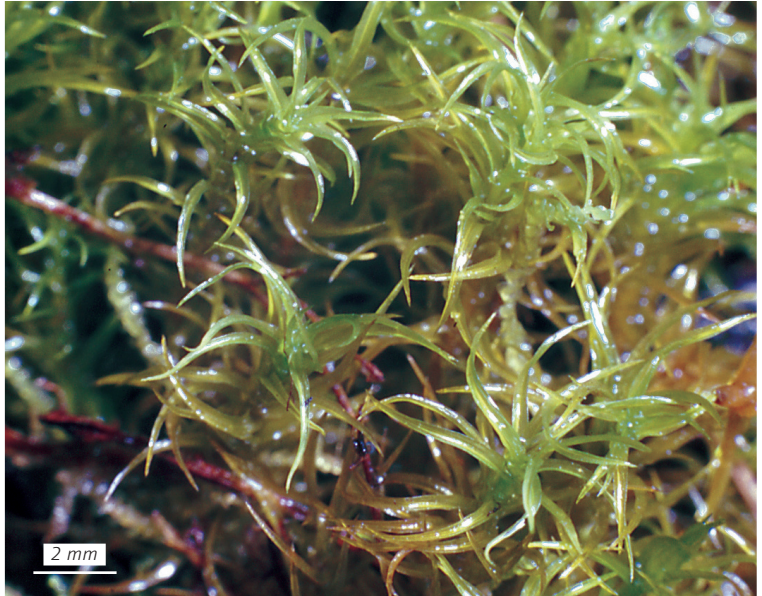
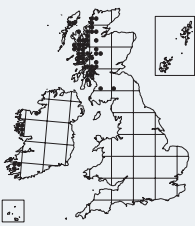


*Trichostomum hibernicum**Oxystegus hibernicus*

Irish Crisp-moss



Identification *T. hibernicum* forms loose, yellow-green tufts and scattered shoots 1 to several centimetres tall. Its leaves are 3.5–4.5 mm long, very narrow with plane margins, and bend back from an expanded base that sheaths the stem to point away at 90° from the stem. They are slightly wavy when moist, crisped and curved when dry. The cylindrical capsules are very rare.

Similar species *T. tenuirostre* (p. 435) is usually larger, and has longer, wavier leaves that are not expanded at the base. The much commoner, lowland *Didymodon insulanus* (p. 463) and some other members of this genus may resemble *T. hibernicum*, but have leaves with recurved margins. *Paraleptodontium recurvifolium* (p. 439) has shorter leaves (about 2.5 mm long) that are spreading or strongly recurved away from the stem, and have coarse teeth and a pale border. The leaves of *Dichodontium flavescens* (p. 361) are 4–5 times longer than wide and have toothed margins. *Oncophorus* species (p. 360) also have leaves that sheath the stem, but produce capsules more frequently than *T. hibernicum*. These are inclined, curved and swollen at the base. Microscopically, the cells of the leaf blade are smooth in *Oncophorus*, but roughened in *T. hibernicum*.

Habitat At low altitudes, *T. hibernicum* most often occurs near waterfalls, where it may grow near *T. tenuirostre*. It also occurs amongst rocks in block scree, in crevices by water courses, and on ledges on sheltered cliffs. On higher ground, it occurs on damp or wet, base-rich ledges on crags and in wet gullies, and in base-rich flushes.