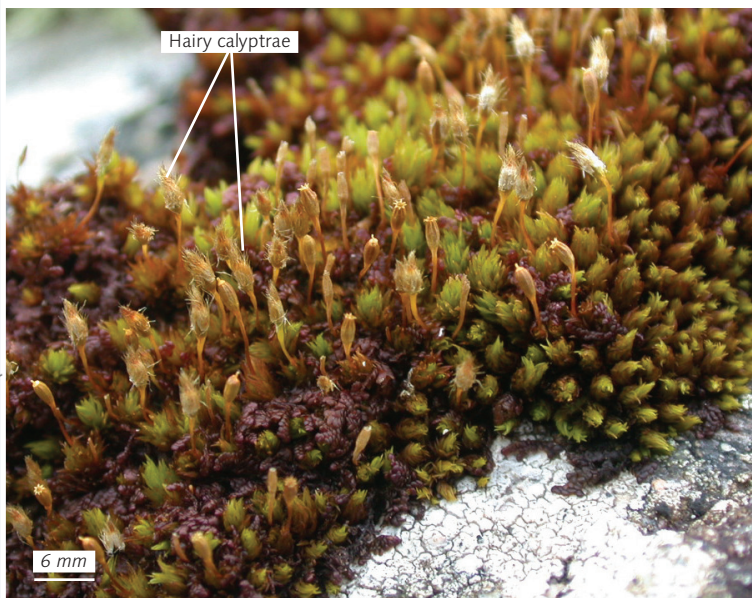
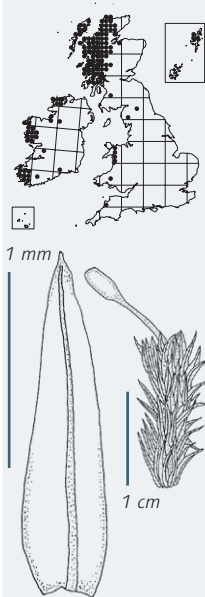


*Ulota hutchinsiae*

Hutchins' Pincushion



## Identification

*U. hutchinsiae* forms neat, dark brown tufts 1–2 cm tall on rocks in the uplands. Its spearhead-shaped leaves are 2 mm long, and are held straight and close to the stem when dry. The prominent, red-brown nerve ends below the tip. Club-shaped capsules abound in summer. They are about 2 mm long, furrowed when mature, and held on a seta 3.5–4 mm long. The calyptra is hairy and completely covers unripe capsules.

## Similar species

*Orthotrichum* species (pp. 646–657) that grow on rocks also have leaves that do not curl when dry, but are seldom dark brown, and the leaves are usually 3–4 mm long. Of these species, only *O. anomalum* (p. 656) holds its capsules clear of the leaves, as in *U. hutchinsiae*, but the capsules of *O. anomalum* are shorter and only partly covered by the calyptra. *U. drummondii* (p. 661) may also have straight, appressed leaves when dry, but grows on trees and bushes. The leaves of *Grimmia atrata* (p. 524) curve inwards when dry, and it rarely produces capsules. Capsules of *Racomitrium ellipticum* (p. 533) are shorter, lack furrows, and have a hairless calyptra. Leaves of *Ptychomitrium polyphyllum* (p. 541) have coarse, distantly spaced teeth near the tip.

## Habitat

*U. hutchinsiae* is a western species of acidic or base-enriched, dry or intermittently flushed igneous rocks, boulders, and walls. It occurs in scree, corries in the mountains, and near the coast. It often grows near streams and lakes. Very rarely it grows on trees.