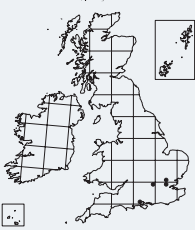


Zygodon forsteri

Knothole Yoke-moss



Identification *Z. forsteri* forms dark green, shiny, compact cushions up to 5 mm tall. Its leaves are about 2 mm long, and held away from the stem when moist; when dry, they become very slightly twisted and the tip may become almost white. The nerve is stout. Narrowly pear-shaped capsules are frequently produced in summer.

Similar species Like other members of the genus, *Z. forsteri* has shortly pointed leaves, but its darker colour is more reminiscent of a small species of *Orthotrichum* (pp. 646–657) than of other *Zygodon* species. Also, the capsule of *Z. forsteri* is widest above its middle, whereas other *Zygodon* species have capsules that are widest at or near the middle. *Orthotrichum gymnostomum* and *O. obtusifolium* (p. 649) have a rounded leaf tip. *Dicranoweisia cirrata* (p. 364) has longer, narrower leaves that are much more curled up when dry.

Habitat *Z. forsteri* grows mainly on formerly pollarded or naturally damaged, veteran beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) in fairly open, well-lit sites. It particularly favours bark where water runs down from knot holes, bosses, and old scars. Some colonies are in or by knot holes in wide beech roots rather than on the trunk.