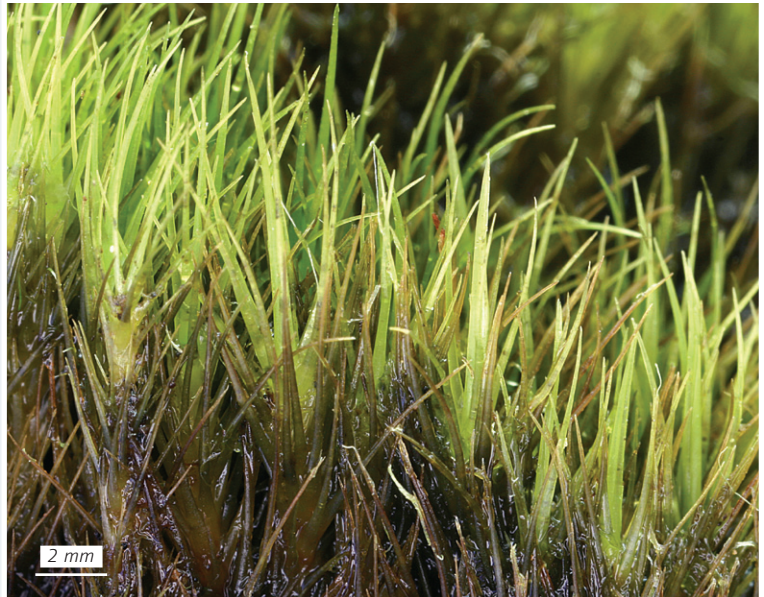
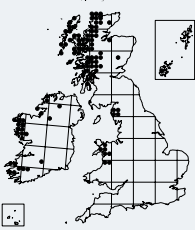


Campylopus gracilis

Schwarz's Swan-neck Moss



Identification In glossy, bright to dark green cushions or patches to 7 cm tall, sometimes yellower when dry. The leaves are 2.5–8 mm long, erect, straight or slightly turned to one side, and occasionally strongly curved when moist. They are more erect and somewhat wavy when dry. The leaves taper gradually from just above the base to a long fine point which is composed of the excurrent nerve from about halfway up the leaf. The nerve is very wide, occupying up to 80% of the leaf base; the cells in the basal margins form reddish patches, and the stem is sparsely covered with rhizoids.

Similar species The fine, green cushions of this moss are only likely to be confused with *C. atrovirens* (p. 398) and *C. shawii* (p. 397). *C. atrovirens* has almost white hair points on the leaves, although these can sometimes be broken off. It is usually a coarser plant. *C. shawii* is confined to the extreme north-west of Britain and west Ireland; it is usually a larger, yellow-green plant forming extensive patches in mires, but some plants can be difficult to determine without resorting to the microscope. Inexperienced bryologists might confuse *C. gracilis* with many other *Campylopus* species (pp. 391, 393–402), *Ditrichum gracile* (p. 349), and perhaps *Dicranum* species (pp. 377–387).

Habitat Grows in flushed areas on organic soils on rocky banks, crag ledges, flushed ground at the base of crags, wet rock slabs and occasionally in open areas of mires; it often grows with the much commoner *C. atrovirens*.