**Dichodontium palustre**

*Dicranella palustris*

Marsh Forklet-moss  

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**Identification**

Shoots of this distinctively light green species may grow to several centimetres in length, but small plants may barely reach 1 cm in height. The erect stems have leaves typically 2.5–3.5 mm long, with a broad base which sheaths the stem. The upper part of the leaf curves away from the stem, giving the shoots a characteristic appearance. The leaves taper gradually to a blunt tip and the narrow nerve extends to near the tip. The dark red, inclined capsules are only produced occasionally.

**Similar species**

The leaves curving away from the stem and the colour make this one of the easier mosses to identify in the field and unlikely to be confused with other species. *D. pellucidum* (p. 361) is mid-green rather than yellow-green, and frequent on silty gravel and damp soil in the hills. The leaves of *Dicranella schreberiana* (p. 368) are not blunt-tipped.

**Habitat**

Grows in a variety of wet habitats, including marshy ditches, flushed grassland and the edges of streams and stony flushes in northern and western Britain.