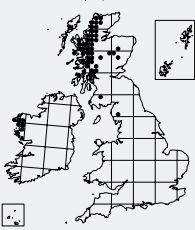


*Dicranodontium uncinatum*

Curve-leaved Bow-moss



**Identification** An attractive plant, forming robust, dark green, often glossy, cushions to 10 cm in depth. The curved leaves are 5–10 mm long or more, point in one direction when moist, and are hardly altered when dry, only occasionally becoming somewhat straighter and more erect. The leaf base, which sheaths the stem, narrows rapidly to a long, fine, finely toothed tip, mostly composed of the nerve, which is excurrent. The nerve is 25–30% of the width of the leaf base, and on either side of the nerve near the base is a patch of colourless cells, clearly visible with a hand lens if leaves are stripped off the stem. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

**Similar species** *D. asperulum* (p. 389) is usually lighter green, has leaves that are less regularly curved and pointing in one direction, a more lax habit (a bit like *Ditrichum gracile*, p. 349) and less distinct colourless patches near the nerve in the leaf base. *D. uncinatum* also resembles *Dicranum fuscescens* (p. 382) and *D. scottianum* (p. 383), but the wide nerve and the curved leaves pointing in one direction that hardly alter when dry are good characters. See also *Campylopus setifolius* (p. 396) and *C. gracilis* (p. 392). However, the large, dark green cushions of *D. uncinatum*, with all leaves curved and pointing in one direction are usually easily recognized.

**Habitat** A western species growing on organic soils in montane heath, in gullies, on ledges or at the base of crags, in sites which are humid but well-drained, though occasionally occurring on rocks along the drip line below overhangs. Most sites face north to north-east.