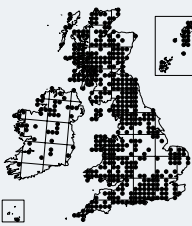


Dicranum bonjeanii

Crisped Fork-moss



Identification Usually a large plant (to 13 cm), growing in yellow-green cushions or hummocks and occasionally in larger patches. The approximately 8 mm long leaves are straight or rarely somewhat curved, and are narrowly spearhead-shaped, tapering to a fine tip in which the relatively narrow nerve can be seen with a hand lens. The nerve has slightly raised lines of cells on the back, but these are not normally visible with a hand lens. The margins of the leaf near the tip are strongly and often irregularly toothed. Normally, the most obvious feature of the leaf is the prominent transverse undulations, a feature often visible with the naked eye. *D. bonjeanii* occasionally produces deciduous shoots with smaller leaves at the tip of the stems.

Similar species When typical, *D. bonjeanii* is easily recognized, but it is probably overlooked as *D. scoparium* (p. 378). Occasional patches of *D. scoparium* with undulate leaves are confusing, but in *D. bonjeanii*, the lack of raised, toothed lines of cells makes the leaf tip rather flat and renders the narrow nerve distinct, i.e. with leaf-blade cells visible on either side, right up to the top of the leaf. Some forms of *D. bonjeanii* with very prominent marginal teeth can resemble *D. polysetum* (p. 377). Confusion is also possible with the rare *D. bergeri* (p. 381).

Habitat *D. bonjeanii* is normally a plant of damp turf with some flushing; a typical site would be a wet grassy slope, but it can also occur in mires and fens, at lake margins, and less commonly in drier sites like chalk grassland and the short turf above sea cliffs.