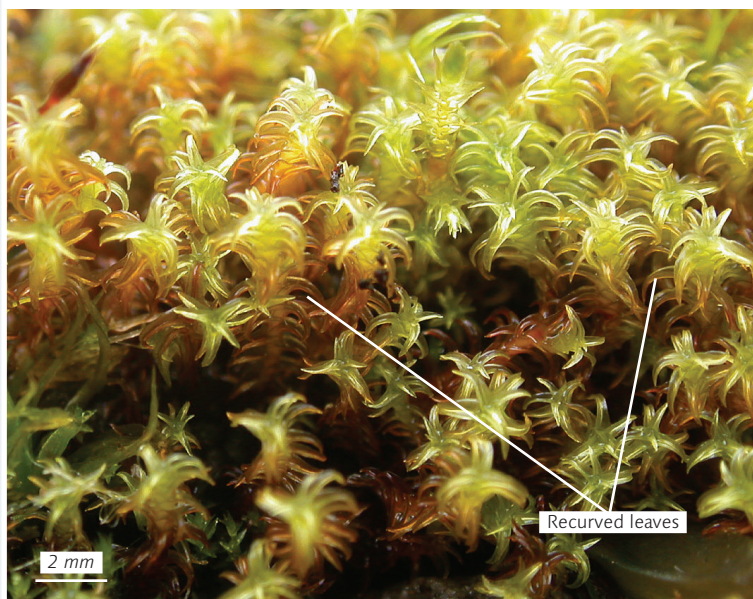
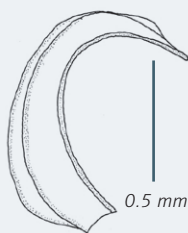
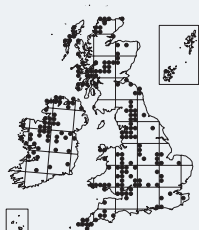


Didymodon ferrugineus

Barbula reflexa

Rusty Beard-moss



Identification Forming patches or loose tufts, the red-brown shoots, tipped with green, may grow up to 2 cm tall, with leaves that are about 1–1.5 mm long and are strongly bent back away from the stem. The 3-ranked arrangement of the leaves is normally a very distinctive and easily observed character. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

Similar species *D. fallax* (p. 457) has less strongly recurved leaves, and they are rather more longly pointed. *D. maximus* (Smith, p. 333) is a very rare moss of limestone cliffs in Ireland, which forms larger, yellow-brown or brown tufts 2–8 cm tall. The leaves of *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum* (p. 442) are not so strongly recurved away from the stem, and have a distinct change in taper just below the tip. It also quite often forms capsules.

Habitat *D. ferrugineus* grows on well-drained, bare, calcareous soil and rock, for example in disused quarries, on scree, in calcareous dunes, on machair, and in chalk pits. It may also grow on damper ground, such as periodically flushed soil below base-rich crags in the mountains.