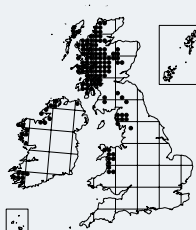


*Hylocomiastrum umbratum**Hylocomium umbratum*

Shaded Wood-moss



**Identification** The irregularly branched, pale green shoots of this moss are 7–20 cm long, but quite slender and have a red-brown stem. Stem leaves are about 2 mm long, broadly triangular, tapering to a sharp point, whilst the branch leaves are smaller (about 1 mm long) and more oval; both have a double nerve which extends about halfway up from the leaf base, but this may be difficult to see in the field. The leaf margins are irregularly and coarsely toothed, and the surface is conspicuously pleated. Under a hand lens, the stems and branches appear furry owing to the presence of branched filaments. Capsules are scarce in Britain.

**Similar species** *Hylocomium splendens* (p. 821) is more regularly branched, and has oval rather than broadly triangular leaves, which are less conspicuously pleated. *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* (p. 820) is usually larger. Also, its leaves are not strongly pleated, and they have a wrinkled tip and a base that runs down onto the stem.

**Habitat** *H. umbratum* is not uncommon in hilly districts of western Britain where it occurs on the ground in open woodland, in turf and amongst rocks and scree.