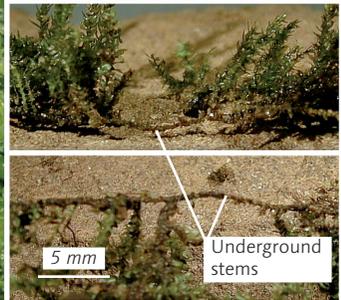
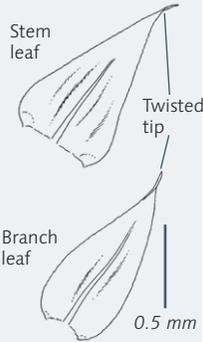
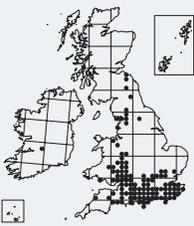


*Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri**Eurhynchium schleicheri*

Twist-tip Feather-moss



## Identification

*O. schleicheri* is similar to *O. hians*, but is normally more densely branched, with branches erect or ascending. Leaves are 1–1.25 mm long. Stem leaves are egg-shaped or triangularly egg-shaped, narrower than in *O. hians* (twice as long as wide or more), and sometimes slightly pleated. The branch leaves are crowded, narrowly egg-shaped, and often have a half-twist at the tip. The most useful field character is the creeping underground stems, bearing scale-like leaves. These can be seen by lifting a mat of the plant with the soil attached and viewing it from the underside. Capsules are rare, borne on a roughened seta about 1 cm long.

## Similar species

The twisted leaf tip and presence of underground stems are the best characters for distinguishing *O. schleicheri* from *O. hians* (p. 768), but caution is needed as the leaf tip is sometimes flat, and underground stems are occasionally present in *O. hians*. When in doubt, *O. schleicheri* can be confirmed microscopically, as it has narrower leaf cells than *O. hians*. When the leaves are pleated, *O. schleicheri* may slightly resemble *Eurhynchium striatulum* (p. 765), but *E. striatulum* has a more bushy growth form and normally occurs on rock, not soil.

## Habitat

*O. schleicheri* grows in a narrower range of habitats than *O. hians*, occurring on soil in woods and on sheltered banks in the lowlands, especially on light or sandy soil.