**Scorpidium revolvens**

*Hypnales*  

*Drepanoclados revolvens*  

Rusty Hook-moss

Typical *S. revolvens* is easily recognized thanks to its dark red colour, nerved leaves, sprawling growth and long, irregular branches. Atypical plants can be worryingly similar in appearance to *S. cossonii*. Shoots are several centimetres long and often about 3 mm wide, with leaves about 3.5 mm long. Capsules are rare.

Typical *S. cossonii* (p. 722) is green, or mottled green and red, upright and has abundant short branches at 90° to the stem. Such plants are immediately and obviously different from *S. revolvens*. Intermediate plants (usually red, rather sprawling, and of medium size, with abundant branches) are frequent, however, and need to be checked microscopically. *S. scorpioides* (p. 721) can be the same size as *S. revolvens*, but lacks nerves and has wider leaves and a flabby appearance. *Warnstorfia sarmentosa* (p. 715) is reminiscent of *S. revolvens* in size, colour and habitat, but has straight, blunt-tipped leaves.

An upland moss that forms extensive red patches in open flushes or on flushed rocks. It requires moderately base-rich water and often grows with *Campylium stellatum* and *Ctenidium molluscum*.

*Photos Michael Lüth (left) & Graham Motley (right) Text Sam Bosanquet*