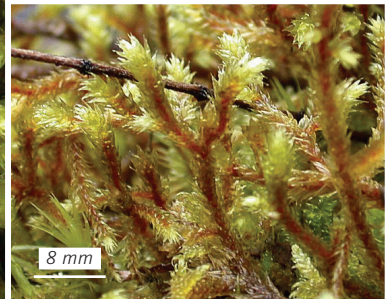
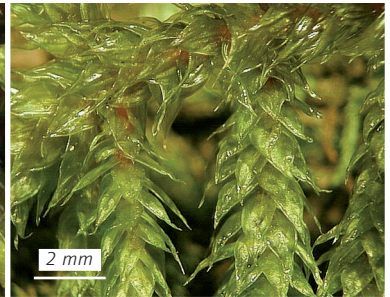
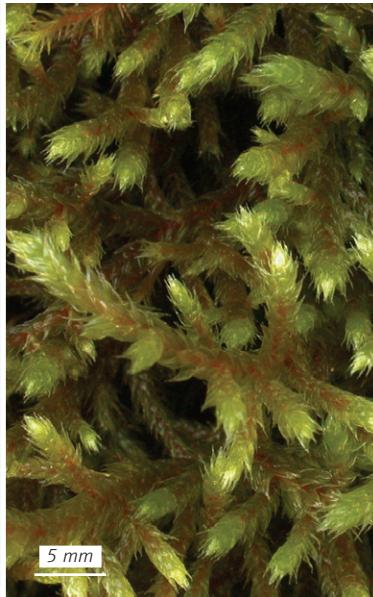
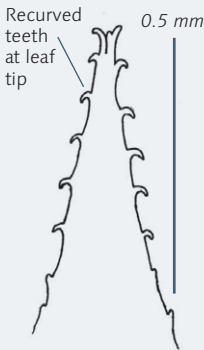
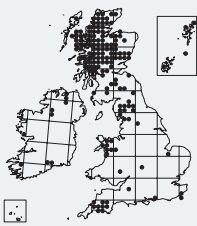


Antitrichia curtispindula

Pendulous Wing-moss



Identification

When growing luxuriantly, the reddish, branched stems form loose masses of shoots up to 20 cm long, and are often tinged golden yellow. The leaves are 2–2.5 mm long, and tend to curl over to one side, especially at the tip of shoots. They are loosely appressed when dry, but spread rapidly when moistened, are concave, longitudinally pleated and have a nerve extending for more than half the length of the leaf. They taper to a fine tip which is rather coarsely toothed. If the leaf is held up to the light and examined with a 20 hand lens it is usually possible to see that at least some of the teeth are recurved. The extreme tip of the leaf often has 2 or 3 such teeth, and thus resembles an anchor or grapnel. Capsules are rare.

Similar species

Small patches of *A. curtispindula* might initially be taken for a rather superior *Brachythecium* species (see pp. 741–752), but no *Brachythecium* has a leaf which is concave, pleated and coarsely toothed at the tip. Several authors have noted a resemblance to *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* (p. 817), but *A. curtispindula* differs in its more closely spaced leaves (the red stem of *R. loreus* is visible between its leaves) and in having more shortly pointed leaves with recurved teeth near the tip. The leaves of *R. loreus* narrow from a broad base to a longer, more curved tip.

Habitat

A. curtispindula grows on upland rocks, including boulders by lakes, rocks in scree and on cliffs. It also occurs on trees and shrubs in open woods or stunted scrub and, more rarely, in a range of other habitats including open grassland, sand dunes and shingle.