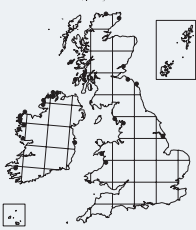
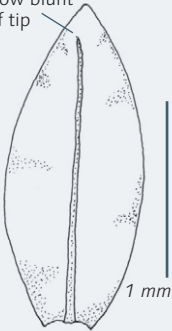


*Bryum marratii*

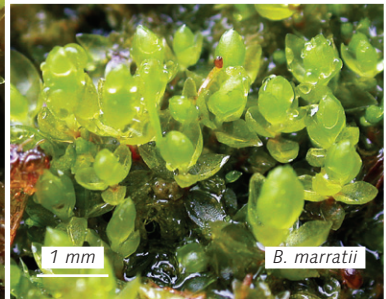
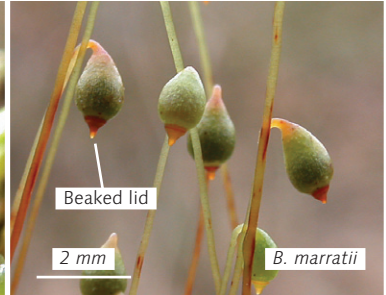
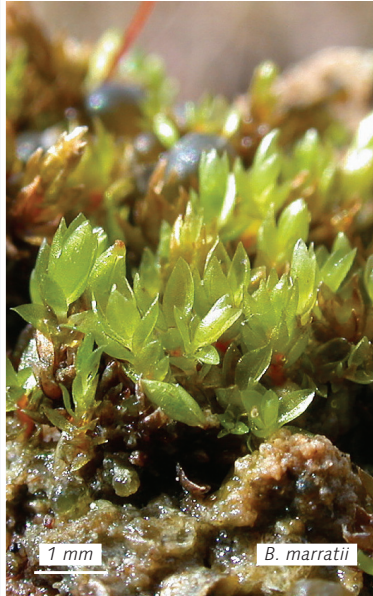
Baltic Bryum



Nerve ends  
below blunt  
leaf tip



## Identification



This is one of several very uncommon *Bryum* species with blunt-tipped leaves. Its shoots form rather bright green patches 2–10 mm tall. Leaves are very concave, blunt-tipped, oval-oblong, about 0.75–2 mm long and up to 2.5 times longer than wide. Capsules are uncommon, maturing in autumn. They are only about 1.5 mm long, and no more than 1.5 times longer than wide, with a beaked lid.

## Similar species

*B. marratii* occurs mainly at the upper edge of saltmarshes, whereas the even rarer *B. calophyllum* (Smith, p. 540; also see photographs on opposite page) prefers base-rich coastal sands, particularly in dune slacks. Small plants can be difficult to distinguish, but the leaves of *B. calophyllum* are more strongly bordered and somewhat shorter relative to their length (about twice as long as wide), often with a tan to pinkish colour. The best distinction between these two species is that the capsules of *B. calophyllum* (which mature in autumn and winter) are about twice as long as wide, with a bluntly conical lid.

Another rare species, *B. cyclophyllum* (Smith, p. 547) also has wide, bluntly tipped leaves that are somewhat concave; it is a much softer plant than the common *Rhizomnium punctatum* (p. 616), with a less well-defined leaf border. Filamentous gemmae sometimes occur in the leaf axils, but capsules are unknown in Britain. It grows on moist, bare soil, especially in the inundation zones of large lakes and reservoirs.



The rare *B. muehlenbeckii* (Smith, p. 586) appears to consist of unusual forms of *B. alpinum* (p. 599) that have grown partly or entirely submerged. It has bluntly tipped, concave leaves, and forms green, or red-tinged tufts or patches 2–7 cm tall on acidic rocks in and near water courses in the mountains. The lower part of the stems is covered by long rhizoids which may bear orange-red tubers identical to those of ordinary *B. alpinum*. Capsules are not known in Britain.

Rare forms of *B. pseudotriquetrum* (called *B. neodamense* in Smith, p. 566; also see photograph above) occurring in base-rich sites that are prone to flooding, have leaves which are concave, bluntly tipped and do not run down onto the stem, but resemble those of ordinary *B. pseudotriquetrum* (p. 592) in being rather evenly spaced along the stem and are distinctly bordered.

Habitat *B. marraii* grows mainly at the upper edge of saltmarshes, and rarely on dune slacks.