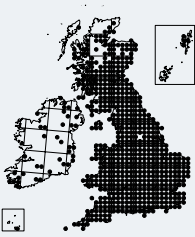


Dicranoweisia cirrata

Common Pincushion

Key 208, 280



Identification A small- to medium-sized plant, usually forming neat, yellow-green to mid-green cushions to 3 cm tall. The leaves are about 2.5 mm long, erect and somewhat wavy when moist, and strongly crisped when dry. They are narrowly spearhead-shaped and gradually taper to a finely acute tip. The leaf margins are narrowly recurved and the nerve extends into the tip. Capsules are common, cylindrical and erect on a yellow seta which is often curved when moist. Elliptical gemmae often occur on the back of the leaves near the base.

Similar species *Dicranum montanum* (p. 386) also has crisped leaves when dry, but *D. montanum* is usually darker green, has toothed leaf margins and a group of distinct, colourless or brown cells at the basal corners of the leaves, and tends to grow in diffuse patches rather than tufts. *Dicranoweisia crispula* (p. 365) is a scarce species of upland rocks and differs in having inflated cells at the basal corners of the leaves and plane leaf margins, but these can be difficult to observe with a hand lens. *Oreoweisia bruntonii* (p. 358) generally grows in more sheltered places and has toothed leaf margins. *Orthodontium lineare* (p. 580) does not crisp up when dry, and its setae and capsules tend to hang down.

Habitat A common plant over most of Britain, occurring on trees, fence posts, thatch and a variety of other organic substrates, and on exposed rocks and old stone walls in hilly districts.