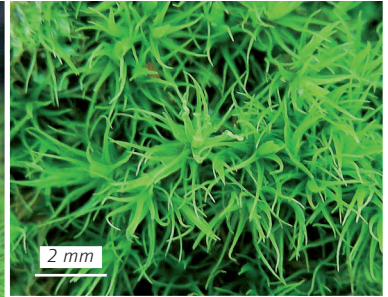
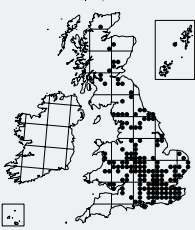


Dicranum montanum

Mountain Fork-moss



Identification *D. montanum* forms small, dense, dark or mid-green cushions and spreading patches to 3 cm tall. Poorly developed shoots with deciduous leaves may look scurfy. Its leaves are 2.5–3 mm long, strongly crisped when dry. Moist leaves are wavy and spreading or tend to point in one direction. The narrowly spearhead-shaped leaves taper gradually to a toothed tip, and have a group of distinct, colourless or brown cells at the basal corners. The nerve ends in the tip. Small, deciduous branchlets may form at the tip of the shoots. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

Similar species The common *Dicranoweisia cirrata* (p. 364) looks very similar, but lacks teeth on its leaf margins and a distinct group of cells in the basal corners of the leaf. *D. cirrata* also often produces capsules.

Habitat Despite its name, *D. montanum* is a lowland moss, and does not occur on mountains. The usual habitat is on the base and trunk of trees, and their exposed roots in woodland or parks. Less frequently, *D. montanum* grows on branches, and rarely on rocks.