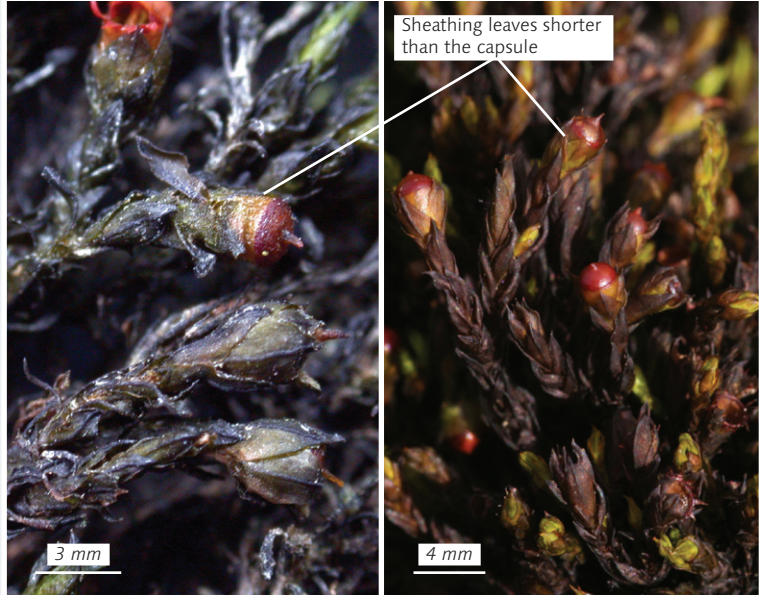
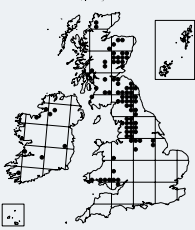


Schistidium platyphyllum

Broadleaf Grimmia



Identification This dark green, branched moss resembles *S. rivulare*. Shoots are 0.5–4 cm long, with leaves 1.75–2 mm long. Its leaves are broader and shorter than those of most British *Schistidium* species, and they have rounded backs, unlike the keeled leaves of other members of the genus. They usually lack a hair point, although the leaves around the capsule often have a very short hair point. The capsules are short, broad and dark red, and easily visible because they are hardly hidden by the leaves that sheath them, which are only as long as the capsules themselves.

Similar species Often confused with *S. rivulare* (p. 507) in the past, but quite straightforward to recognize in the field. Tufts tend to be neater and less sprawling than those of *S. rivulare*, with shorter branches, but there is some overlap. Diagnostic features are the short, broad leaves, and the leaves that surround the sporophyte not overtopping the capsule. *Racomitrium aciculare* (p. 534) also has short, broad leaves, but these are very blunt and have teeth that are visible with a hand lens.

Habitat Like *S. rivulare*, this is a plant of rocks in rivers and the two species quite often grow together. It is generally less common, but can be the main *Schistidium* species on some rivers. It is most abundant on base-rich rocks, such as limestone and calcareous sandstone in the uplands, but may also be found at lower altitudes where blocks of concrete or limestone have been positioned to reduce the likelihood of flooding.