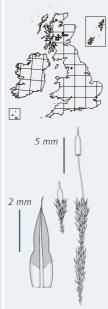
Encalypta alpina

Alpine Extinguisher-moss





Identification A pale green moss, with opaque, very matt leaves gradually tapering into a shortish, usually colourless hair point. Shoots are about 2-4 cm tall, with leaves 3 mm long. Capsules are usually present, smooth, lack a peristome, and until maturity are entirely covered by a very large calyptra. They are borne on a red seta.

Similar species The very large calyptra over the capsule confirms this as a species of *Encalypta*. It differs from other species of *Encalypta* (pp. 555–557, 559) by its gradually tapering leaves, from E. rhaptocarpa (p. 555) and E. streptocarpa (p. 557) by its smooth ripe capsules, and from E. ciliata (p. 559) by the base of its calyptra lacking a fringe.

Habitat Base-rich rock crevices at medium to high altitudes, often associated with other rare and scarce, montane species.