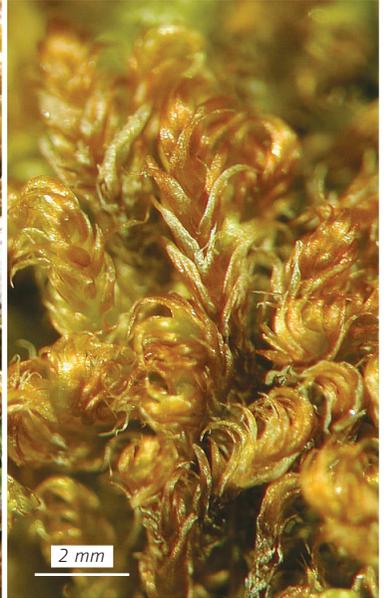
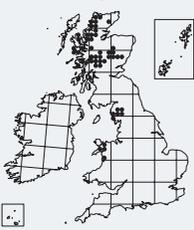


Hypnum hamulosum

Hook-leaved Plait-moss



Identification *H. hamulosum* forms very slender, dense, yellowish green to golden brown (often straw-coloured) patches. Its shoots are ascending or erect, and pinnately branched. Leaves are 1–2 mm long, overlap closely, and form 2 rows – one on each side of the stem. They curve like a sickle (sometimes very strongly so), and are all turned to one side. The nerve is absent or very short. Capsules are rare, and form in summer. They are inclined and narrowly cylindrical with slightly convex sides.

Similar species This moss could be mistaken for small *Ctenidium molluscum* (p. 812), which also grows in base-rich habitats, but has leaves typically with an undulate surface, and shoots that may be triangular. Other montane *Hypnum* species differ in size, habit and habitat. *H. callichroum* (p. 809) is bigger than *H. hamulosum*, and has enlarged cells at the basal margins of its leaves. *H. bambergeri* (p. 808) is also bigger than *H. hamulosum*, and is usually brown. *H. jutlandicum* (p. 806) does not grow in base-rich habitats. *H. imponens* (p. 807) also differs in its habitat, and has reddish-brown stems.

Habitat *H. hamulosum* grows on calcareous rock or shallow soil, usually in the hills, where the ground faces north or east. It can be locally frequent in species-rich turf on the ridges of hills in north-west Scotland, where it often grows with *Aulacomnium turgidum*.