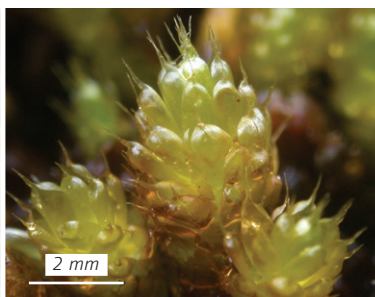
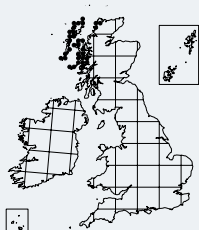


Myurium hochstetteri

Hare-tail Moss



Identification A large, beautiful and unmistakable, glossy, golden brown moss growing in cushions consisting of numerous, densely packed, erect branches up to 6 cm long, arising from a hidden, creeping stem. The branches are swollen with concave, shiny leaves, each abruptly narrowed into a slender point. The leaves are 3–4 mm long and can be deciduous. Capsules are unknown in Scotland and Ireland.

Similar species No other species resembles *M. hochstetteri*. *Cirriphyllum piliferum* (p. 756) also has leaves with a similar hair-like point, but is a green moss of woodlands, with pinnately branched, attenuated shoots.

Habitat *M. hochstetteri* usually grows near the sea, on rocky or turfy banks, ledges on low cliffs and in the crevices of rock outcrops. Despite its rarity, *M. hochstetteri* can be conspicuous and locally abundant in the most western parts of Scotland. It also occurs at one locality in Ireland.