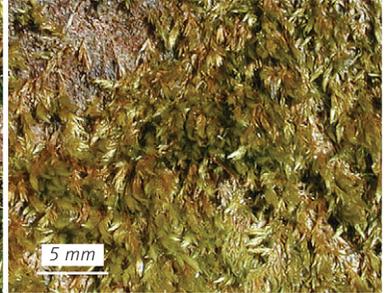
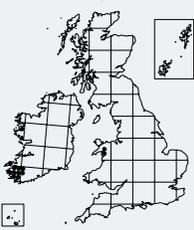


Sematophyllum demissum

Prostrate Signal-moss



Identification The slender shoots are 2–7.5 cm long, and form glossy, golden green, irregularly branched patches prostrate on or hanging down from rocks. The branches are short and often curved. Leaves are about 1 mm long, with a tapering tip. The nerve is absent or barely visible. Capsules are frequent in summer and autumn, held inclined or horizontal, elliptical, and about 1.3 mm long, with a conical lid that has a long beak. Setae are irregularly wavy.

Similar species *S. micans* (p. 793) has leaves about twice as long as wide, whereas those of *S. demissum* are about 3 times longer than wide. *Herzogiella striatella* (p. 791) has longly tapering leaves, and a furrowed capsule with a blunt lid. *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* (p. 788) and *Taxiphyllum wissgrillii* (p. 789) are similar in size and shape, but lack the golden colour of *S. demissum*.

Habitat *S. demissum* is usually found on moist, acidic or mildly base-rich rocks and boulders in light shade at low altitudes by streams in woodlands. It is very rare, and known only from a few sites in north Wales and western Ireland, but it can be abundant in its few haunts.