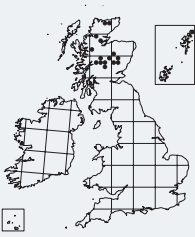


Sphagnum lindbergii

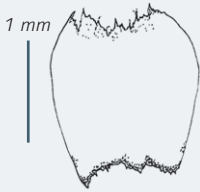
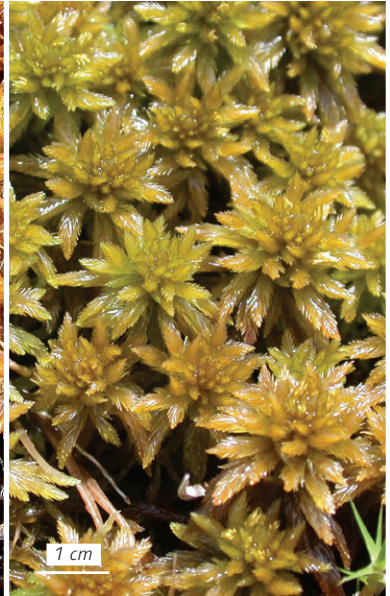
Lindberg's Bog-moss

Section Cuspidata



Stem leaf

1 mm

Detail
of stem
leaf tip**Identification**

A large or robust species. Occurs in large, spreading mats or as small patches. Generally orange-brown to greenish-brown, but in spring in montane sites it is a dingy green after snow melt. The intensity of the orange-brown colour increases during the summer, so that large stands can be picked out up to a kilometre away with binoculars. Capitula are robust with many short straight branches and a very prominent terminal bud. Spreading branches are short and stubby, with branch leaves in conspicuous straight lines. The stem is dark brown. Stem leaves are more or less rectangular, or wider above the base, conspicuously tattered and fringed across the whole of the wide tip. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species

S. lindbergii is a very distinctive species. *S. pulchrum* (p. 305), restricted to generally lower altitude sites, also has short stubby branches with leaves in conspicuous straight lines, but is a more golden colour, has triangular, pointed stem leaves, a much less prominent terminal bud and fatter branches which taper to the tip and base.

Habitat

Found in nutrient-poor flushes and springs high in the mountains, where it can be locally common. Also present at low altitude in and around pools on blanket bogs in Sutherland, and in boggy depressions in Shetland.