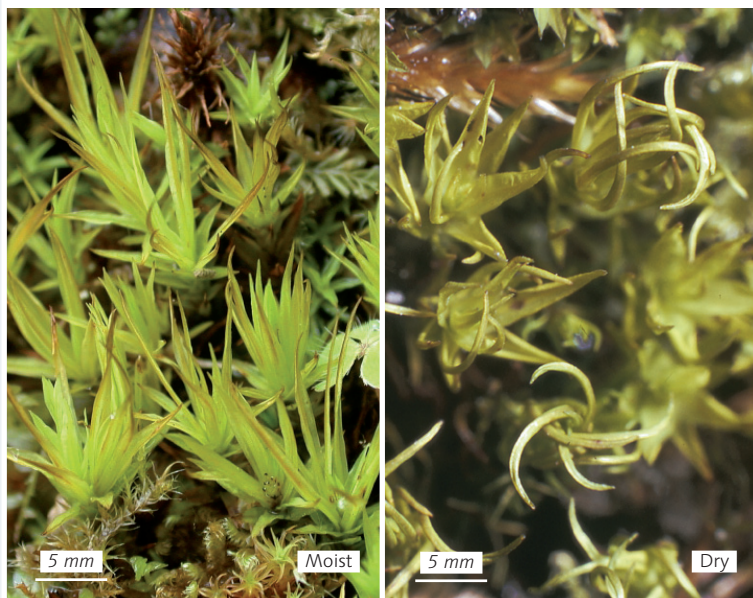
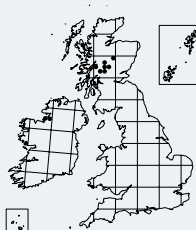


*Timmia norvegica*

Norway Timmia



**Identification** This species forms light green tufts or scattered shoots up to 8 cm tall, albeit usually much less. Its upper leaves are longer (about 9–10 mm) than the lower leaves (about 6 mm), and taper narrowly from a sheathing base that clasps the stem, with a strong nerve that ends in the leaf tip. Dry leaves are erect and strongly curved, closely resembling a small *Dicranum* species. Moist leaves spread to an angle of about 45° from the base. The plane leaf margins are toothed in the upper part. Leaves may become detached from shoots; this is a useful field character. Capsules are unknown in the British Isles.

**Similar species** Small *Dicranum* species (pp. 377–387) have leaves that lack a distinct sheathing base, and are usually much more finely drawn out towards the tip. *T. norvegica* also rather resembles *T. austriaca* (p. 553), with which it often grows, but *T. austriaca* looks like a small *Polytrichum* (pp. 322–326) and is typically darker in colour, with all its leaves a similar size along the stem.

**Habitat** *T. norvegica* grows in a fine turf of other mosses and herbs on dry or damp, base-rich rock ledges at high altitudes. It favours cliffs of calcareous schist more than limestone and basalt.