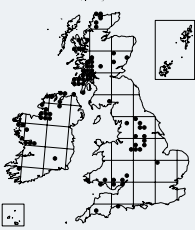


Gymnostomum calcareum

Blunt-leaf Tufa-moss



Identification Forms dense patches, usually over 5 mm in depth. The leaves are 0.5–1 mm long, strap-like and barely taper to a tip, where the leaf margins meet at a little less than a right angle. They are 5–7 times as long as wide with plane margins, and are spreading to recurved when moist. When dry, the leaves are more appressed and slightly twisted. Capsules are rare in spring and summer, lack a peristome, and are borne on a pale yellow seta.

Similar species Can be confused with *G. viridulum* (p. 449) which has shorter stems and broader leaves. *G. aeruginosum* (p. 451) forms duller green cushions on wet rocks and beside streams, and has quite twisted leaves when dry. The much commoner *Didymodon tophaceus* (p. 466) also grows in similar habitats, but has a broader leaf tip, recurved leaf margins and a brownish colour.

Habitat Found on damp, shaded, soft limestone and tufa, typically in moister and more sheltered localities than *G. viridulum*.