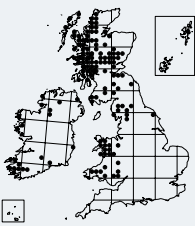


Hygrohypnum eugyrium

Western Brook-moss



Identification Stems are normally not much more than 2 cm long and leaves are 1–1.5 mm long. *H. eugyrium* forms green or brownish patches, the branches often appearing rather swollen because the leaves are loosely appressed and overlapping. Important details are the absence of a long, single nerve, the leaf margins erect or incurved in the upper part, and the distinct patch of orange cells at the margins of the leaf base. These patches can often be seen with a good hand lens if leaves are pulled from the stem. Capsules (1.5–2 mm long) often form.

Similar species *H. eugyrium* resembles both *H. luridum* (p. 731) and *H. ochraceum* (p. 730), but has strongly coloured patches of basal cells, forms neater patches, and is not as large as the robust forms of those species. *H. eugyrium* also resembles *Brachythecium plumosum* (p. 751), but differs in the shorter leaf tip with a blunt or shortly pointed outline, and the short, double nerve. When growing in runnels, large forms may resemble *Scorpidium scorpioides* (p. 721) in colour and habitat, but *S. scorpioides* is much larger and fatter than *H. eugyrium*. *Platyhypnidium alopecuroides* (p. 759) is usually larger and has erect, not curved, leaves. It is also distinguishable by the lack of distinctly coloured patches of cells at the leaf base. The rare *Sematophyllum micans* (p. 793) also lacks patches of orange cells at the leaf base, and its leaves are symmetrical and not curved.

Habitat *H. eugyrium* grows on rocks and stones in swift-flowing streams in upland regions, though not necessarily at high altitudes. It often occurs in wooded ravines, usually where the rock is slightly base-rich.