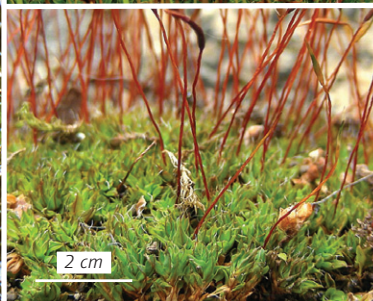
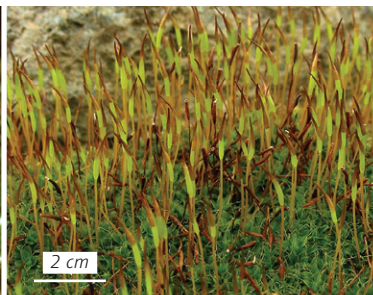
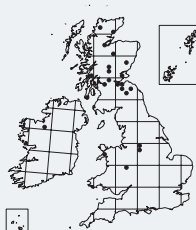


# *Syntrichia princeps*

*Tortula princeps*

Brown Screw-moss



## Identification

This quite bulky species forms dense, dark green patches 1–4 cm tall. The leaves are recurved when moist, and twisted when dry. On well-grown stems, the 5–6 mm long leaves grow in tufts rather than continuously up the stem. This is best seen in dry plants where the tufts look like little knots up the stem, which is crowned by a bud formed from twisted leaves. Individual leaves have sides that are distinctly constricted around the middle and recurved for about three-quarters of their length. The tip is rounded and the nerve is excurrent in a long, silvery, toothed hair point. Upright, cylindrical capsules are common.

## Similar species

*S. intermedia* (p. 496) does not have leaves in tufts along the stem. The leaves of *S. ruralis* (pp. 494–495) also do not grow in tufts along the stem, and are not contracted at the middle.

## Habitat

*S. princeps* typically grows on calcareous outcrops of rock in the uplands, although it may occasionally occur on soil in woods. It is rare, and found in scattered localities from the Midlands and north Wales, north to Scotland.