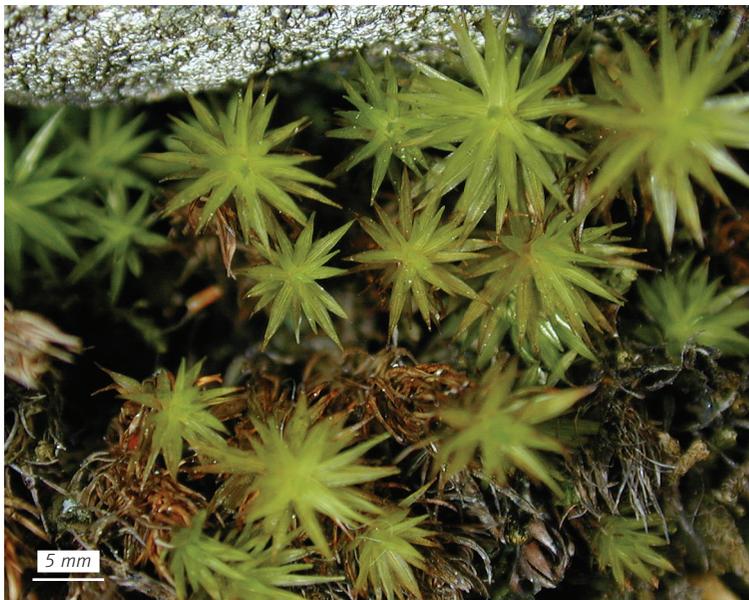


Timmia austriaca

Sheathed Timmia



Identification *T. austriaca* has rather stiff shoots, either as scattered individuals or forming dark green tufts up to 9 cm tall (but usually much less). Its narrowly tapering leaves are a similar size along the stem (10 mm), and have a sheathing base. Dry leaves are erect, slightly channelled and weakly curled, closely resembling a small *Polytrichum* or *Polytrichastrum* species. The leaves spread when moist, with plane margins toothed in the upper part. The nerve is strong, ending in the leaf tip. Capsules are unknown in the British Isles.

Similar species *T. austriaca* looks very similar to a small *Polytrichum* (pp. 322–326) or *Polytrichastrum* (pp. 318–321) species, but their leaves are thicker and more opaque. It can also be confused with *T. norvegica* (p. 554), with which it often grows. That species is usually lighter green, has deciduous leaves and superficially resembles a *Dicranum* species (pp. 377–387).

Habitat This rare species grows on dry or damp, base-rich rock ledges at high altitudes, within an open turf of herbs and other mosses.