



## Common haircap (*Polytrichum commune*)



- Growth Form:** Tough, wiry stems forming compact cushions up to 40cm tall.
- Leaves:** Bright green, fading to brown; narrow and spear-shaped, with a star-like appearance from above.
- Reproductive Structures:** Brown, box-shaped capsules produced in summer.
- Substrate:** Damp, acidic habitats like heaths and moorlands.
- Polytrichum juniperinum is a smaller but similar relative.

Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

## Common Smooth-cap (*Atrichum undulatum*)



- Growth Form:** Upright, unbranched stems up to 7 cm, forming loose tufts.
- Leaves:** Narrow, pointed, wavy when moist, with distinct paired teeth on margins.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules frequent, cylindrical with long beaked lids on reddish stalks (2–4 cm).
- Substrate:** Shaded woodlands, banks, heaths, and rocky soil.

Photo © Sharon Pilkington / British Bryological Society

## Capillary Thread-moss (*Bryum capillare*)



- Growth Form:** Forms tufts or patches of stems mostly 1–3 cm tall, shoots curling into spirals when dry.
- Leaves:** Broad leaves 2–5 mm long, curving away from the stem, nerve extends into a fine hair-point.
- Reproductive Structures:** Drooping, cylindrical capsules on reddish setae, common in spring and summer.
- Substrate:** On soil, walls, and rocks in open grassland, woodland edges, and disturbed ground.

Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

## Silky Forklet-moss (*Dicranella heteromalla*)



- Growth Form:** Compact cushions of slender shoots up to 3 cm tall.
- Leaves:** Curved to one side (secund), tapering to a fine point, with toothed margins near the tip.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules frequent, curved and inclined, on yellow-brown setae.
- Substrate:** Acid soils on woodland banks, tree roots, and shaded embankments.

Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society



## Variable Crisp-moss (*Trichostomum brachydontium*)



Photo © Sharon Pilkington / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Small, loose tufts or patches, stems often unbranched and slightly spreading.
- Leaves:** Narrow, 2–4 mm long, with blunt to slightly pointed tips and a strong midrib.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules occasional, oval-oblong, upright on yellowish setae.
- Substrate:** Thin soil on rocks, wall-tops, and compact ground in dry or open places.

## Grey-cushioned Grimmia (*Grimmia pulvinata*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Dense cushions 1–2 cm tall with short erect stems.
- Leaves:** Narrow, spear shaped with excurrent nerve ending in long hair-point.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules frequent, oval/ovate on curved stalks burying themselves in the moss on curved “swan-necks”.
- Substrate:** Base-rich rocks, walls, concrete, and masonry in lowland and urban areas.

## Wall Screw-moss (*Tortula muralis*)



Photo © Hamlyn Jones / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Low cushions under 1 cm; short erect stems.
- Leaves:** Tongue-shaped with excurrent nerve ending in long hair-point.
- Reproductive Structures:** Narrow capsules on 1–2 cm stalks with spirally twisted ‘teeth’.
- Substrate:** Base-rich rocks, walls, concrete, and masonry in lowland and urban areas.

## Great Hairy Screwmoss (*Syntrichia Ruralis*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Forms bright golden-green cushions or turfs about 1–2 cm tall.
- Leaves:** Tongue-shaped with curved sides and long nerve extending to hair-point, leaves twist when dry.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules rare, narrow, cylindrical capsules.
- Substrate:** base-rich rocks, walls, concrete, pavement, and lowland urban areas.

*Syntrichia ruraliformis* is a similar species found on sand dunes.



## Anomalous Bristle-moss (*Orthotrichum anomalum*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Cushions or small tufts; capsules held above leaves.
- Leaves:** 2.5–4 mm length and close to stem, straight with a toothed border.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules frequent, reddish-brown on short stalks and 16 ‘teeth’.
- Substrate:** Acidic woodland on logs, rocks and soil.

## Swan’s-neck thyme-moss (*Mnium hornum*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Upright stems 2–4 cm tall forming loose tufts with unbranched, erect shoots.
- Leaves:** 4–8 mm long with blunt rounded tips and a distinct double-toothed border and a midrib ending just below the tip.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules long hanging on 2.5–5 cm stalks, often abundant in spring.
- Substrate:** Common in damp, acidic woodlands on logs, rocks, tree bases, and soil.

## Common Feathermoss (*Kindbergia praelonga*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Forms soft, feathery mats with long, slender creeping stems and regular branching.
- Leaves:** Triangular to heart-shaped on main stems, tapering to fine points.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules frequent; oval, slightly curved, inclined on red setae with beaked lids.
- Substrate:** Damp woods, banks, and grasslands, usually on fertile, base-rich soils.

## Rough-stalked feather moss (*Brachythecium rutabulum*)



Photo © Sharon Pilkington / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Irregularly branching stems forming loose green carpets.
- Leaves:** Pointed oval leaves with a distinct midrib, slightly curved and feathery.
- Reproductive Structures:** Curved, egg-shaped capsules on rough stalks, often abundant.
- Substrate:** Common in woodlands, lawns, and at the base of hedges, on soil, wood, or stone.



## Cypress-leaved plait-moss (*Hypnum cupressiforme*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Flat, creeping mats or carpets with irregularly branched stems.
- Leaves:** 1-2mm long leaves with fine wispy tips, arranged along branches in a neat plait, nerve absent or very short.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules 2.5 mm with beaked lid on 1–2.5 cm reddish-brown stalks.
- Substrate:** Bark, decaying wood, rocks, and walls; acidic to slightly base-rich sites.

## Common striated feather-moss (*Eurhynchium striatum*)



Photo © Sharon Pilkington / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Forms extensive springy carpets that can cover large areas with regularly branched, creeping stems.
- Leaves:** Small (1.5–2 mm), triangular to heart-shaped with finely toothed margins and wrinkles.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules are rare, with a characteristic beak-shaped lid.
- Substrate:** Grows on the woodland floor, often on soil or stones, preferring base-rich to neutral or slightly acidic soils.

## Common tamarisk moss (*Thuidium tamariscinum*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Forms flat, feathery mats 5–25 cm long with multiple regular branching stems.
- Leaves:** Tiny broad, triangular to heart-shaped, with ridges and acute tips.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules are curved and held on purple stalks (2–4 cm), uncommonly seen.
- Substrate:** Woodlands, hedge-banks, and damp grassland on neutral to slightly base-rich soils.

## Springy turf-moss (*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*)



Photo © Claire Halpin / British Bryological Society

- Growth Form:** Forms loose, irregular mats up to 10 cm across with repeatedly branched stems.
- Leaves:** Small, spreading out from the stem, shaped like narrow ovals with tiny teeth and a strong midrib.
- Reproductive Structures:** Capsules are rare, small, upright on short stalks.
- Substrate:** Damp grasslands, pastures, and lawns, often on base-rich, fertile soils.