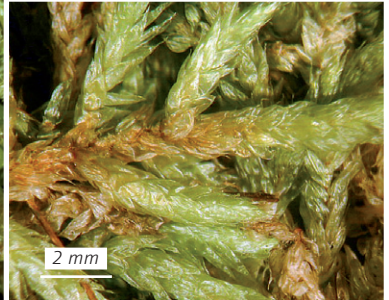
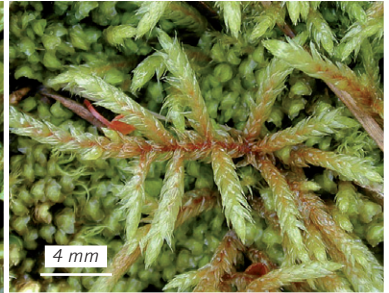
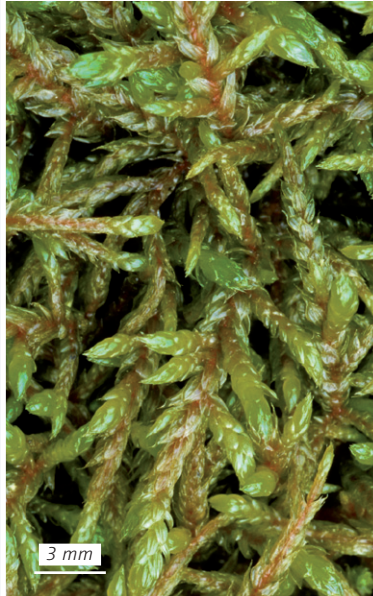
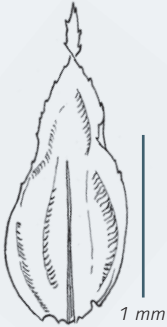
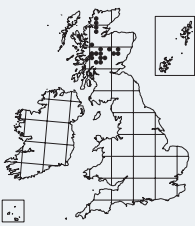


*Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum**Hylocomium pyrenaicum*

Oake's Wood-moss



**Identification** *H. pyrenaicum* forms medium-sized (6–7 cm long), pale green, irregularly and sparsely branched shoots with a red-brown stem. Stem leaves are about 1.5 mm long, oval and concave, and taper abruptly into a long, narrow point which is often twisted. The leaf surface is pleated. The leaves have a strong, single nerve (occasionally branched), which extends about halfway up the blade. Branch leaves are similar, but smaller, about 1 mm long. Both stem and branch leaves have irregularly toothed margins. Under a hand lens, the stems and branches appear furry owing to the presence of branched filaments. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

**Similar species** *H. pyrenaicum* resembles *Pleurozium schreberi* (p. 815), but *H. pyrenaicum* differs in its pleated leaves, presence of tiny, branched filaments on the stems, and its branches, which are somewhat curved, especially when dry. *Hylocomium splendens* (p. 821) is much more robust, more regularly branched, and its leaves are neither pleated nor have a twisted tip.

**Habitat** *H. pyrenaicum* is rare in the Scottish Highlands, where it grows scattered in turf in rocky places, in scree and at the edges of stony flushes. It tends to favour base-rich sites.