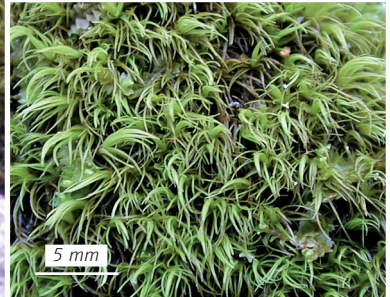
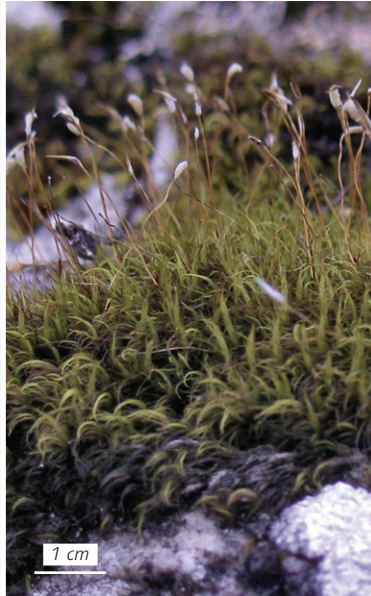
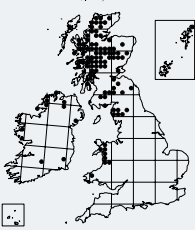


Kiaeria blyttii

Blytt's Fork-moss



Identification Rather dull, dark green or almost black cushions to 5 cm tall. The leaves are 3–3.5 mm long, wavy or occasionally turned in one direction when moist, and somewhat crisped when dry. The leaves have a spearhead-shaped base, tapering gradually to a long, very fine tip with entire margins and an excurrent nerve. Capsules are common and are inclined, curved, and swollen at the base (see drawing on p. 373). They are borne on a relatively long and slightly wavy seta. The calyptra on the capsule sometimes persists for a while and turns white; this can be a distinctive feature.

Similar species *K. falcata* (p. 373) is yellow-green and the leaves are not crisped when dry. *K. starkei* (p. 375) is not as dark as *K. blyttii* and the latter has finer leaves. In its rocky habitat, *K. blyttii* may be confused with *Cynodontium* species (p. 359) and *Oreoweisia bruntonii* (p. 358), but these have leaves with a broader, toothed tip, and ridged capsules. *Dicranoweisia crispula* (p. 365) occurs in similar places, but is not so dark, and its erect capsules lack a swollen base.

Habitat Grows on dry rocks in exposed places in the more montane areas of Britain, but not necessarily at great heights. It is probably most frequent on the faces of boulders in block scree, but also occurs on open crags.