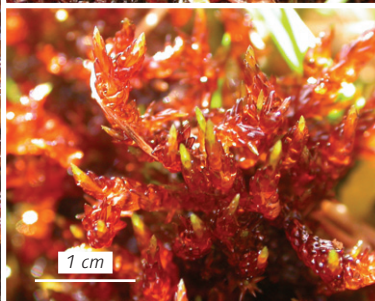
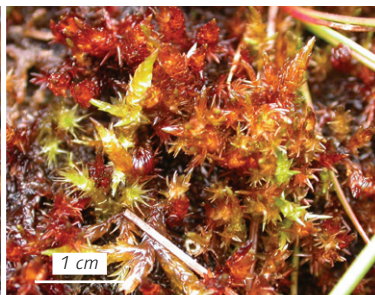
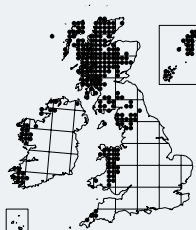


Warnstorfia sarmentosa

Calliergon sarmentosum, *Sarmentypnum sarmentosum*

Twiggy Spear-moss



Identification *W. sarmentosa* is easy to recognize, but may be overlooked when mixed with other species. It is medium-sized to rather large (to 10 cm or more long), with elongated stems and sparse, irregular, often relatively short side branches which are often shortly and abruptly pointed at the tip. It is almost always, at least partly, a rich, purple-red. The leaves are 2–2.5 mm long, oblong or egg-shaped with a rounded or broadly pointed tip that ends in a short, abrupt point. They are erect or slightly spreading, more or less appressed and overlapping, and straight (or rarely, slightly curved). The single nerve extends to the upper part of the leaf. The leaf has a very well-marked, colourless patch of cells in the basal angles. Capsules very rarely form.

Similar species In size and growth form, *W. sarmentosa* resembles *Calliergonella cuspidata* (p. 797), which may become brownish in its older parts, especially when growing in mires. However *C. cuspidata* is pinnately branched, and is immediately distinct in its lack of purplish-red colour and its almost nerveless leaves. Weakly tinted forms of *W. sarmentosa* may resemble *Straminergon stramineum* (p. 720), but the leaves of *S. stramineum* lack short, abrupt points, and are always pale whitish- or yellowish-green. *W. sarmentosa* is often accompanied by other large, reddish-purple mosses, such as *Scorpidium revolvens* (p. 723), but these have distinctly, often strongly curved leaves.

Habitat *W. sarmentosa* occurs in base-rich or mineral-rich flushes, springs and runnels, and on wet, gravelly ground in upland and mountainous districts.