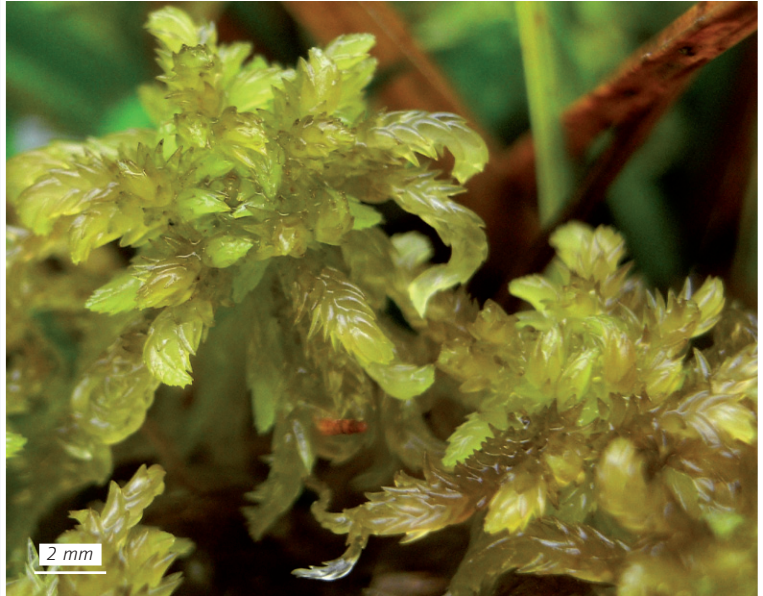
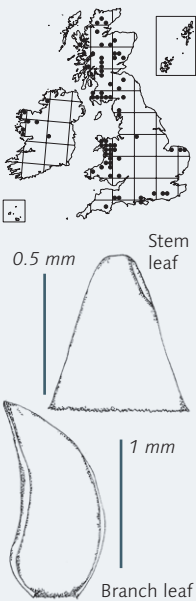


Sphagnum subsecundum

Slender Cow-horn Bog-moss

Section Subsecunda

**Identification**

A small, dainty-looking *Sphagnum*, golden orange or yellowish-brown, forming loose carpets, but green in shade or in submerged forms. Capitula consist of small branches curved in towards the centre. Fascicles have up to 6 or 7 branches. Branch leaves are small, typically less than 1.2 mm long, asymmetrical on the lower part of branches and turned to one side when viewed from above. Stem leaves are very small to tiny (as little as 0.5 mm long), and are equilateral-triangular in shape with a rounded tip, which may appear fringed or slightly notched when viewed with a 20 hand lens. Stems are dark brown, especially lower down, though can be green in shade. Capsules are rare.

Similar species

The combination of small size, bright colours, curved branches, dark stem, small branch leaves and tiny stem leaves make typical plants distinctive. Only small forms of *S. inundatum* (p. 297) are similar, and have to be distinguished by the dimensions of the branch leaves and stem leaves, and microscopic examination of stem leaves. *S. contortum* (p. 299) has a pale stem, and is usually a pale orange-brown or ochre.

Habitat

Found in flushes and fens, soaks, ditches and swamps that are moderately enriched with nutrients. Sometimes it is semi-submerged or in areas flooded in winter. This is one of the more base-demanding sphagna, but less so than *S. contortum* or *S. platyphyllum*.