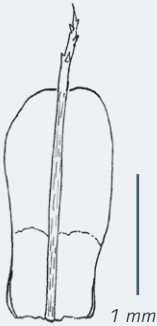
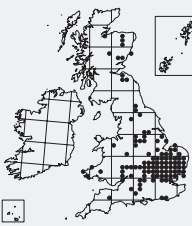


*Syntrichia virescens**Tortula virescens*

Lesser Screw-moss

Key 112



Identification *S. virescens* grows in low, dense, dull green patches 0.5–3 cm tall. The 2 mm long leaves spread when moist, and twist when dry. They are somewhat constricted around the middle, and the margins are recurved for about three-quarters of their length. The tip is blunt, rounded, and has a notch from where the hair point projects in a long, toothed, silvery hair point. The cylindrical capsules are very rare.

Similar species *Tortula muralis* (p. 479) has a smooth hair point and margins recurved almost to the tip of the leaf. *S. intermedia* (p. 496) looks like a rather larger version of *S. virescens* and is more common. It may not always be possible to distinguish these two species without microscopical examination. *S. ruralis* (pp. 494–495) is usually larger, but when it is not it can be distinguished by its leaves which are not contracted at the middle.

Habitat Usually on trees, but also on stones, walls and concrete paths. This species is rather rare and has a scattered distribution.