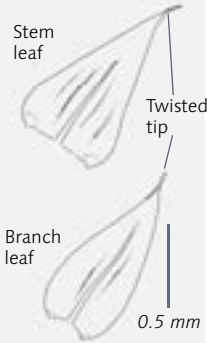
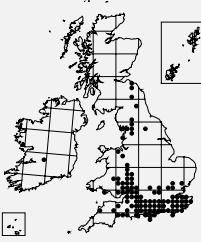


*Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri*(syn. *Eurhynchium schleicheri*)

Twist-tip Feather-moss

**Identification**

*O. schleicheri* is close to *O. hians*, but is normally more densely branched, with the branches erect or ascending. Stem leaves are egg-shaped or triangularly egg-shaped in outline, narrower than in *O. hians* (twice as long as wide or more), and sometimes slightly ridged. The branch leaves are crowded, egg- to spearhead-shaped, and often have a half-twist at the tip. The most useful field character is the common presence of stolon-like underground stems, bearing scale-like leaves. These can be seen by lifting a mat of the plant with the soil attached and viewing it from the underside.

**Similar species**

The twisted leaf tips and presence of stolons are the best characters for distinguishing *O. schleicheri* from *O. hians* (p. 000), but caution is needed as the leaf tip is sometimes flat, and stolons are occasionally present in *O. hians*. When in doubt, *O. schleicheri* can be confirmed microscopically, as it has narrower leaf cells than *O. hians*. When the leaves are ridged, *O. schleicheri* may slightly resemble *Eurhynchium striatulum* (p. 000), but *E. striatulum* has a more bushy growth form and normally occurs on rock, not soil.

**Habitat**

*O. schleicheri* grows in a narrower range of habitats than *O. hians*, occurring on soil in woods and on sheltered banks in the lowlands.