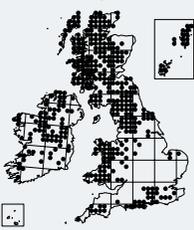


Mylia anomala

Anomalous Flapwort

Key 68



Identification *M. anomala* is very similar to *M. taylorii* (p. 141), but normally easily identified by the modified gemmiferous leaves that are usually present. These are narrowed and pointed, and composed of elongated cells which are visible with a $\times 20$ hand lens. *M. anomala* never forms the large swelling cushions typical of *M. taylorii*, and is most frequent as thin mats or scattered stems in *Sphagnum*. Shoots grow up to about 3 cm long and 1.5–5 mm wide; leaves are 1–1.5 mm long and wide.

Similar species *M. anomala* can be distinguished from the very similar *M. taylorii* (p. 141) by the characteristics described above. *Odontoschisma sphagni* (p. 102), with which it often grows, has much smaller leaf cells and white, thread-like branches underneath.

Habitat Most frequent on bogs or wet heath growing in *Sphagnum* hummocks, but also occurs on eroded surfaces or cuttings of peat, and rarely on thin peat over rocks.