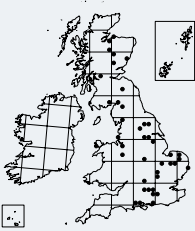


Dicranum polysetum

Rugose Fork-moss



Identification A robust moss, forming open patches up to 15 cm tall. The approximately 7.5–10 mm long leaves are narrowly spearhead-shaped with the upper ones erect and those below spreading and only occasionally somewhat curved. They are strongly undulate, coarsely toothed some distance down from the tip and the lower leaf margins are recurved. The nerve has 2 strongly toothed, raised lines of cells at the back above. The stem is covered by dense, felt-like rhizoids. Capsules are unknown in Britain.

Similar species Amongst species of this genus, only *D. majus* (p. 379) matches the size of *D. polysetum*, but the spreading, undulate, coarsely toothed leaves of *D. polysetum* are quite distinct. *D. bonjeanii* (p. 380), *D. bergeri* (p. 381) and *D. spurium* (p. 384) also have undulate leaves.

Habitat A lowland moss of the ground in coniferous woodland and plantations, but also occurring in heathy birch woodland and on mires. A scarce species, but one which is apparently spreading slowly.