

WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

Slender club-like fruit-bodies up to 2 cm high, creamy to yellow/orange in colour with whitish base, emerging from blue-green patches of damp or wet peat algal crusts, often in large groups.

WHEN TO LOOK?

April to July.

WHERE TO LOOK?

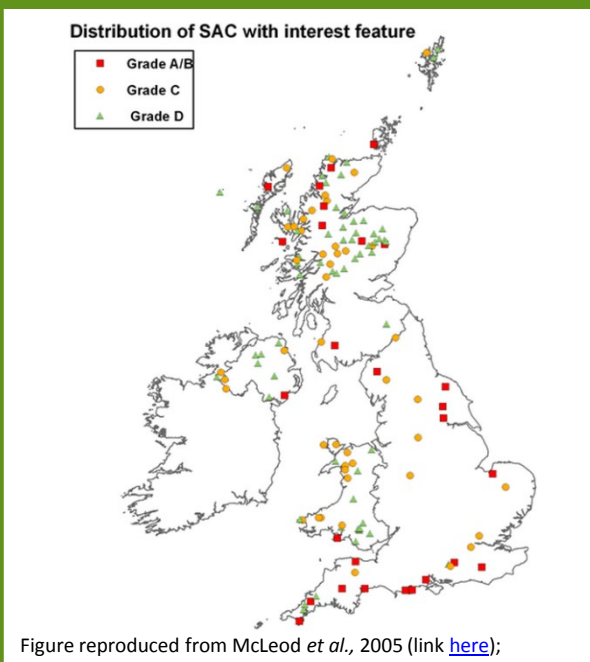
In GB&I, peat bogs and wet heathland. Known habitats may roughly correspond to the EU Habitats Directive classification [4010 "Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*"](#). Fruit-bodies occur on algal crusts on peat, perhaps together with mosses or sundews (*Drosera* spp.). Appropriate habitats seem widespread, and this species may exist as an inconspicuous gelatinous thallus lichenised with algae, which would be unrecognizable when not fruiting. It is possible that fruiting may be infrequent or just easily overlooked.

Notes: Synonyms for this species include *Clavulinopsis vernalis*. The BMS recommended English name for this species is "Moss Club".



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UK Distribution of Annex I habitat
4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*



***Multiclavula vernalis*– known distribution**



Multiclavula vernalis

General description

Fruit-bodies simple, up to 2 cm high, clavate; colour creamy to fleshy cream or straw-orange when fresh, dull ochraceous orange when dry, then usually with a small white spot at the apex like a cap; soft and flexible; terrestrial, ephemeral. Associated with algae or moss protonemata in Europe, North America.

Hymenium extending over approximately the upper two thirds of the fruitbody. **Basidia** 7-20 x 4-7 µm, bearing a basal clamp connection; 4-sterigmate, sterigmata up to 7 µm long, spindly, slightly incurved. Tortuous sterile hyphal tips protrude from the young hymenium and among the basidia. **Spores** smooth, thin-walled, aguttulate, white in prints, bearing a small, indistinct, eccentric apiculus; ellipsoidal to elongate-ovoid, 8-12 x 2.5-3.5 µm. **Contextual hyphae** somewhat parallel, loosely arranged toward the apex of the fruiting body, not agglutinated; short-celled (10-90 x 2-5 µm), thin- to slightly thick-walled; branching and anastomoses abundant. **Subhymenial hyphae** thin-walled, parallel to the contextual hyphae, bearing clamp connections throughout, producing basidia as side branches.

Description adapted from Peterson (1967).

Habitat

In England, associated with algal scum on blue-green patches of damp or wet peat, or peaty soil, sometimes co-occurring with *Drosera* (sundew) species or cyanobacteria.

Conservation status

In GB&I, only known from one site in England (four patches), and four sites in Scotland (three in the Outer Hebrides, one in the Shetland Islands). Considered endangered in the current but unofficial “Red Data List of Threatened British Fungi” (Evans *et al.*, 2006). Considered “data deficient” in GB&I, and nationally rare in Scotland (Woods *et al.*, 2012).

Associations

Lichenised with algae, forming a thallus on the soil/peat surface composed of a gelatinous film or crust, in which *Coccomyxa*-like algae are trapped.

Look-alikes

None are likely in this specific habitat. *Mitrula paludosa* (“Bog Beacon”) (some details [here](#)) is much commoner with similar coloration, but fruitbodies are typically much larger (up to 5 cm), have a clear differentiation between the bright yellow hymenium and white stem, and possess asci rather than basidia. It also tends to occur in association with rotting twigs, plants and algae in very wet habitats.

Other *Multiclavula* spp. are similar, but of these only *M. mucida* has been found in GB&I (two records, on very rotten wood covered with algae). Elsewhere, members of the order Lepidostromatales (Agaricomycetes) have a strong morphological resemblance and are also lichenised, but grow in soil in tropical regions of Africa and the Americas.

Known sites in GB&I

- Noss, Shetland (VC:112), Scotland. 1992, coll.: R. Watling. Grid ref: HU54. FRDBI: 714224.
- N Harris: Creag Uisebri, Outer Hebrides (VC:110), Scotland. 1991, coll.: A. Fryday. Grid ref: NB0908. FRDBI: 713367.
- W Lewis: Teinnasval, Outer Hebrides (VC:110), Scotland. 1991, coll.: R. Watling. Grid ref: NB0325. FRDBI: 713368.
- Creag Uisebri, Glen Meavaig, Outer Hebrides (VC:110), Scotland. 1991, coll.: A. Fryday. Grid ref: NB0908. FRDBI: 716538. RGBE: E00090326.
- Hawley Common, near Hawley Lake, North Hampshire (VC:12), England. 2010, coll.: L. Goodwin. Grid ref: SU83685806. FRDBI:1641444. K(M) 165961.
- Hawley Common, North Hampshire (VC:12), England. 2011, coll.: M.D. Waterman. Grid ref: SU83625804. FRDBI:1784812. K(M) 170157.

References

- Evans, S., Henrici, A. & Ing, B. (2006). "The Red Data List of Threatened British Fungi: Preliminary Assessment." *Unpublished report. British Mycological Society*. Manchester. Available [here](#).
- McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ, & Way, SF (eds.) (2005) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection
- Peterson, R. H. (1967). Notes on clavarioid fungi. VII. Redefinition of the *Clavaria vernalis*-*C. mucida* complex. *American Midland Naturalist* 77: 205-221.
- Woods, R.G. & Coppins, B. J. (2012). A Conservation Evaluation of British Lichens and Lichenicolous Fungi. Species Status 13. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. Available [here](#).