

**Grimmia pilosissima Herzog - Rev. Bryol. 38: 12-13. 1911.**

**Type:** Italy, Sardinia, Mte. Gennargentu, Punta Marmora, 1750 m, leg. Herzog, holotype JE!

**Distribution:** Eur.

**Description**

*Grimmia pilosissima* grows in large, dense, greyish-glaucous, hoary cushions, leaves are fragile, slightly contorted when dry, from a short sheathing base patent to spreading when moist, ovate-lanceolate, tapering from shortly above the base to an acute apex, slightly keeled above, costa is obscure above, rounded-projecting at dorsal side, hair-points in upper leaves are long and squarrose, denticulate, flattened at base and decurrent down margin, margins are plane, more or less incurved above. The distal areolation is bistratose, mid-leaf cells are rounded-quadrate with incrassate walls, basal marginal cells are quadrate with thickened transverse walls, basal juxtacostal cells are short-rectangular with thickened transverse walls. The sexuality is dioicous, seta is straight, capsules are occasionally present, they emergent, ovoid, sulcate when empty with an obliquely-rostrate operculum.

**Discussion:**

*G. pilosissima*, an European endemic, is characterized by a growth form in large, glaucous-grey, very hoary cushions, the hair-points of the upper leaves strongly reflexed when dry, resembling those of *Campylopus introflexus* (Hedw.) Brid. Wetted plants come close to *G. ovalis* with comparable leaf form, though not with the stiff arched posture characteristic for this species. The differences with *G. ovalis* and *G. montana* are discussed in Greven (1994). Under the microscope, the uniform chlorophyllose basal cells with thickened transverse walls, are striking. In 1993, *G. pilosissima* was found in the Serra da Estrela in Portugal, growing abundantly on damp granitic rock at an altitude of 1450 m. The yellow colour inside the cushions, mentioned in the protologue, was present, and the plants were fruiting, with capsules hidden between the perichaetial leaves. In 1994, *G. pilosissima* was found in large, frequently capsule-bearing cushions at damp granitic slopes on Corsica (Mte. d'Oro, Mte. Cinto), at altitudes from 1200-1800 m, associated with *G.*

*ovalis* and *G. montana*. Recently, it was recorded for the first time from Switzerland (Greven 2008).

### **Specimens examined**

**Corsica:** Mte. d'Oro, alt. 1120-1420 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2956-2960; Mte. Cinto, alt. 1520-1740 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2961-2963; Col de Vergio, alt. 1450-1720 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2965-2967; Lac de Melo, alt. 1220 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2964; **Sardinia:** Monti del Gennargentu, Punta la Marmora, alt. 1750 m, leg. Th. Herzog; Monti del Gennargentu, Punta la Marmora, alt. 1520 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2411, alt. 1450 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2412, alt. 1480 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2413; Barancu Spina, alt. 1520 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2269; Monte Arbu, alt. 1290 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2281, 2415, 2416; **Portugal:** Serra da Estrela, Penhas Dourados, alt. 1500 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2299; alt. 1450 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2297 and 2298.

### **References**

- Greven, H.C. 1994. *Grimmia pilosissima* Herzog, rediscovery of a forgotten species. *Lindbergia* 19: 129-131.
- Greven, H.C. 2008. *Grimmia* Hedw. In the canton of Valais, Switzerland. *Meylania* 41: 45.
- Pedrotti, C.C. 2001. *Flora dei muschi d'Italia*, 817 pp, Antonio Delfino Editore, Roma.