Rusty Bog-moss is a type of Sphagnum which forms hummocks and is brown like a ginger biscuit. It is found in wet bogs or at high altitudes. It is an important peat-forming species in northern countries.

Bogs are areas of land where a layer of peat has accumulated naturally and is kept wet by precipitation (rain, snow, fog, etc.). Peat is formed under waterlogged conditions from carbon-rich, dead and decaying plant material, mainly from Sphagnum species. Sphagnum are ‘keystone species’ producing an environment which many other species need to survive.

Only found occasionally in Scotland, particularly in the North West it is very rare in England and Wales.

Rusty Bog-moss distribution in Scotland. Each 10km square shows presence of Rusty Bog-moss. ©NBN 2013

**ACTION REQUIRED**

1. Restore peatlands through adjusting land management (e.g. grazing or burning management, tree removal) and blocking drainage ditches
2. Re-vegetate bare peat and reintroduce Sphagnum.

**FURTHER READING**

'Field guide to Sphagnum mosses in bogs’, Field Studies Council
www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

**MSP SPECIES CHAMPION**

Rob Gibson MSP
Member of: Caithness, Sutherland and Ross
Region: Highlands and Islands
Party: Scottish National Party

Tel: 0131 312 7765
enquiries@swt.org.uk
www.swt.org.uk

Tel: 0131 317 4100
rspb-scotland@rspb.org.uk
www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

**DESCRIPTION**

**THREATS**

Lowland raised bog in the UK has decreased by around 94% over the last two centuries. The main factors which have led to this decline are agriculture, afforestation and peat extraction.