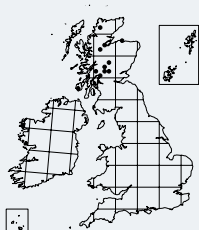


Aongstroemia longipes

Sprig-moss



Identification A small moss, forming lax, pale green tufts or open patches to 1 cm tall. Stems are often prostrate with an ascending tip. The leaves are appressed to the stem, making the fragile shoots narrow, broadening a little at the tip because the upper leaves are longer. The short (less than 1 mm), broad leaves are somewhat concave, with entire, plane margins, and narrow to a blunt point. The nerve is stout and extends to the tip, but can be hard to make out with a hand lens.

Similar species In the field, this moss looks very similar to *Anomobryum julaceum* (p. 579) and sometimes occurs with this species. *Aongstroemia longipes* has leaves which narrow abruptly to a bluntly pointed tip, while in *Anomobryum julaceum* the leaf is more egg-shaped and narrows evenly to an acute tip. Microscopical confirmation may be necessary. It also somewhat resembles the narrow shoots of *Pohlia filum* (Smith, p. 604), but lacks the axillary gemmae of that species and has a different leaf shape. *Ditrichum lineare* (p. 344) also holds its leaves less appressed to the stem, but has longer (1–1.5 mm) upper leaves. Green forms of *Bryum argenteum* (p. 596) have the nerve ending below the tip, and often produce capsules.

Habitat This is a rare moss of damp, disturbed sites which are at least moderately base-rich, with recorded sites on tracksides, by hydro-electric dams and in upland gravel pits.