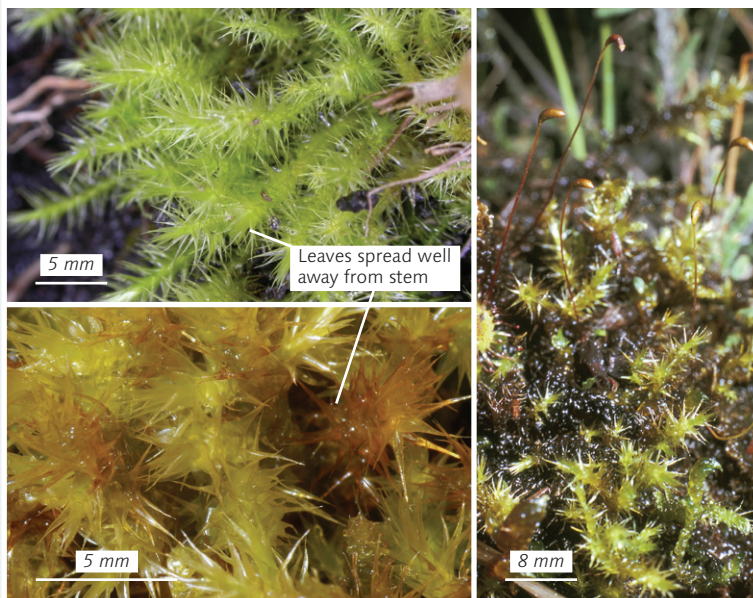
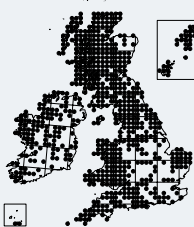


Campylium stellatum

C. stellatum var. *stellatum*

Yellow Starry Feather-moss

Key 345



Identification This medium-sized moss of wet ground has erect, pale or yellow-green, sparsely to moderately branched shoots typically 2–3 cm long. Stem leaves are mostly 1.8–3 mm long, with an erect and somewhat sheathing base, and a tip that is widely spreading or strongly curved away from the stem, often at right angles to it, giving the shoots a star-like appearance when seen from above. The leaves taper evenly or rather abruptly from the base to the tip, which forms two-fifths to two-thirds of the leaf length. An important clue to identity is the channelled and sometimes almost tubular form of the leaf tip. It appears to have no nerve, and there are fairly distinct, enlarged cells at the leaf base. Capsules are rare.

Similar species The channelled leaf tip distinguishes *C. stellatum* from similar mosses with spreading leaves except *C. protensum* (p. 710), which has smaller, prostrate shoots. *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* (p. 711) is found in drier habitats, is smaller, and has less widely spreading leaves in which it is sometimes possible in the field to see a distinct, single nerve. *Drepanocladus polygamus* (p. 713) has somewhat star-like shoot tips and a channelled leaf tip, but the leaves normally have a long, single nerve, and unlike *C. stellatum*, the plants frequently have capsules.

Habitat *C. stellatum* is characteristic of at least slightly base-rich mires, flushes and dune slacks, sometimes over wet rocks in open places.