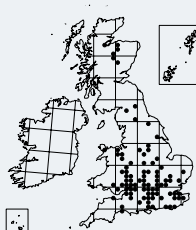


Campylophyllum calcareum

Campylium calcareum

Chalk Feather-moss



Identification This slender moss has prostrate shoots that are densely but irregularly branched. The most distinctive character is in the leaves, which are rather crowded, and spreading to strongly curved away from the stem. They taper from a broad, somewhat heart-shaped base to a very long slender tip which occupies half the leaf length or more. Individual shoots are commonly no more than 1 cm long, but they form dense, green or yellowish-green patches. Stem leaves are up to about 1 mm long.

Similar species Few other slender mosses have leaves that distinctly spread or strongly curve away from the stem. *C. halleri* (p. 796) is one, but its tip occupies only about half the leaf length or less, and being a mountain plant, it is unlikely to be confused with *C. calcareum*. *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* (p. 711) has similarly spreading leaves, but they do not curve away from the stem. *C. chrysophyllus* also tends to form less dense patches, and usually grows in turf and open habitats. Its leaves have a single nerve, but this may be difficult to observe in the field. *Campylium protensum* (p. 710) is a larger, less densely branched plant of moister habitats, with leaves exceeding 1 mm in length. *Conardia compacta* (p. 708) is also very similar, but the leaves are not so suddenly narrowed above the base and are often erect-spreading or curved, and are usually less strongly recurved away from the stem.

Habitat An uncommon moss of low-lying, calcareous habitats, usually occurring on stones and about tree roots, but also on compacted soil, in woodland and other sheltered or shaded places.