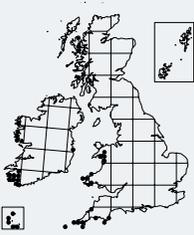


Campylopus pilifer

Stiff Swan-neck Moss



Identification In small, dark green tufts or patches to 5 cm tall, with each shoot looking rather thick and uniform with densely packed leaves. Leaves are 3–5.5 mm long, erect and straight when moist, and scarcely altered, but more appressed when dry. The leaves are narrowly spearhead-shaped, tapering gradually to a relatively short tip which is entire, but the nerve is excurrent in a hair point with strongly pointed teeth. The upper part of the leaf appears dense owing to the presence of raised lines of cells on the back of the wide nerve.

Similar species Only likely to be confused with the very similar *C. introflexus* (p. 400) whose shoots often have thickened nodes up the stem, whereas *C. pilifer* has uniformly thick stems. The hair points of the dry shoots in *C. introflexus* are also more often reflexed to a right angle than they are in *C. pilifer*. *C. introflexus* usually has a different habit and habitat; however, it may occasionally be necessary to cut leaf sections in order to confirm identity.

Habitat Grows in cracks and crevices in dry, usually unshaded rocks or on thin, stony soil overlying rocks. Most sites are coastal, although less so in south-west Ireland, and populations tend to be small, composed of a scattering of cushions or linear patches running along crack lines.