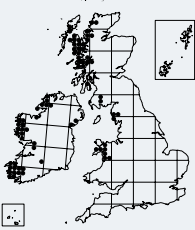


Campylopus setifolius

Silky Swan-neck Moss



Identification In large, but rather lax tufts and patches up to 15 cm tall and often quite distinctively dark olive-green. The leaves are very long (3–8.5 mm) and fine, erect and not curved when moist, and somewhat wavy when dry. The leaves are quite widely spaced on the stem, giving the stems a thin appearance, particularly low down. The long, fine point is markedly toothed to perhaps a quarter of the way down the leaf, the red-brown cells in the basal corners form distinct patches and the nerve occupies up to 60% of the leaf base. Capsules are unknown.

Similar species Only likely to be confused with *C. atrovirens* (p. 398) with which it often grows, *C. gracilis* (p. 392) and possibly *Dicranodontium asperulum* (p. 389). It differs from *C. atrovirens* and *C. gracilis* in the sharply pointed teeth extending some way down the margins. A number of leaves may have to be examined in order to see this clearly with a hand lens. The thin, wavy shoots and olive-green colour are also useful. *D. asperulum* is usually smaller and yellow-green, with a thinner nerve and less distinct patches in the basal corners of the leaves.

Habitat *C. setifolius* is a European endemic limited to the UK and Ireland with one old record from north-west Spain. It is a hyperoceanic species, growing in humid sites; it is probably most frequent in amongst leggy heather with oceanic-montane liverworts on north- and north-east-facing rocky slopes, but also grows in turf at the base of wet crags and on rocky banks and ledges in ravines.