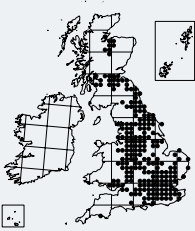


Dicranum tauricum

Fragile Fork-moss



Identification Light to mid-green cushions or patches to 4 cm tall, often with broken leaf tips amongst the shoots. Identification can be confirmed by running a moist finger across a tuft. This will invariably bring away leaf fragments on the finger tip. The 3–4 mm long, straight leaves are erect when moist, and more appressed to the stem when dry. The leaves are very narrowly spearhead-shaped, tapering to a very fine tip which is composed largely of nerve and frequently broken off. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species The uneven cushions with broken leaf tips are usually easily recognized. Grows in similar places to *D. flagellare* (p. 387), but that species usually has small, erect branchlets at the tip of the shoot. Superficially similar to *Campylopus flexuosus* (p. 395), which is usually larger, has a wide nerve, and often grows on logs.

Habitat Most stands are on decaying wood, on logs, stumps and old fence posts, but it also occurs on trees and rarely on rocks. It apparently spread markedly during the 20th century.