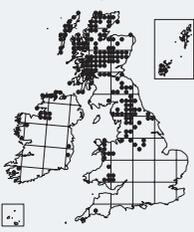


Distichium capillaceum

Fine Distichium

Key 80

**Identification**

Growing in soft, dense, yellow-green tufts or patches to 5 cm deep, but occasionally more. The shoots are flattened, with the leaves in 2 ranks on either side of the stem. The leaf is about 6 mm long, and has an almost white, sheathing base that narrows abruptly into a reflexed upper part with a long, very fine tip, mostly occupied by the excurrent nerve. Cylindrical capsules are common; they are 3 mm long, erect, or at most slightly inclined, and held on a seta up to 15 mm long.

Similar species

The flattened shoots with leaves reflexed from a sheathing base are quite distinctive, and confusion is only possible with *D. inclinatum* (p. 353) which has shorter, inclined capsules.

Habitat

A moss of at least mildly base-rich rocks where it grows on damp ledges or in crevices. It also occurs on sand dunes and has been recorded from mortared walls. Mainly found in the more upland parts of Britain and locally common on the more base-rich mountains.