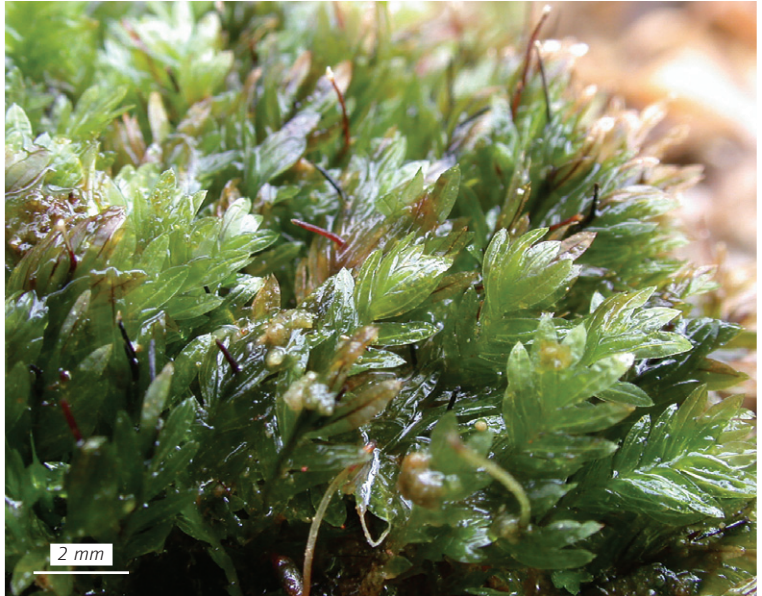
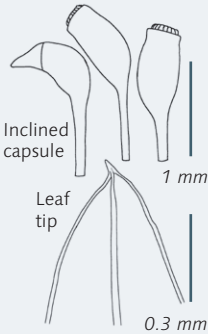
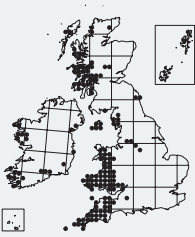


*Fissidens curnovii**F. bryoides* var. *caespitans*

Curnow's Pocket-moss

Key 100

**Identification**

The most striking feature of this species is the red-purple rhizoids, which with care can be discerned in the field. Although these can occur as a felt on the older parts of the shoot, it is usually necessary to search amongst the soil or silt at the base of the stem. However, the rhizoids are brown in some individuals, and then the species must be distinguished from *F. bryoides* by the inclined capsules and the more heavily thickened leaf border (microscope). It resembles *F. bryoides* in possessing bud-like lateral male branches in some of the leaf axils. The rhizoids of *F. curnovii* are sometimes described as red, but by transmitted white light under high power they have a beautiful violet tinge. Shoots are 6–20 mm long.

Similar species

Other species of *Fissidens* always have brown rhizoids. *F. bryoides* (p. 407) has erect capsules and typically grows in less wet and less acidic habitats. *F. curnovii* is now considered to be a variety of *F. bryoides*.

Habitat

This is a plant of streamsides, especially in steep-sided valleys. It grows on acidic soil banks, over rocks, or in shale crevices. Occasionally it is found on silty tree roots by rivers.