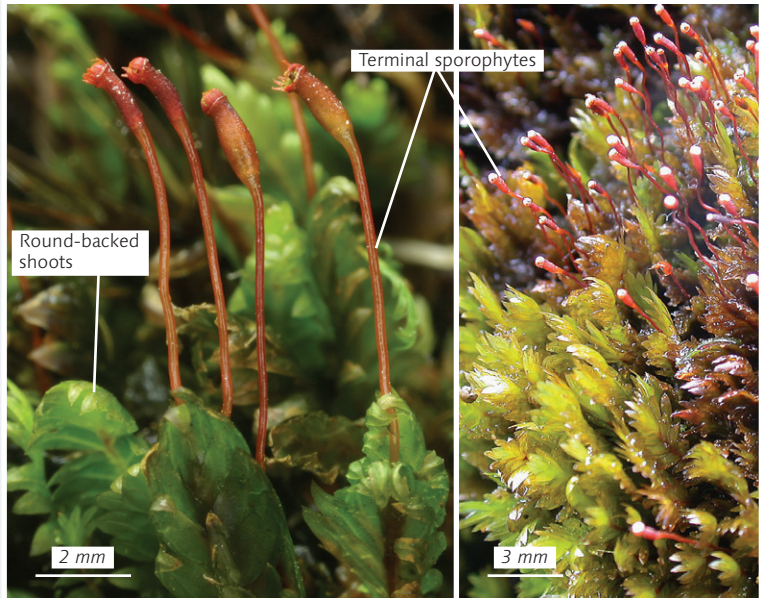
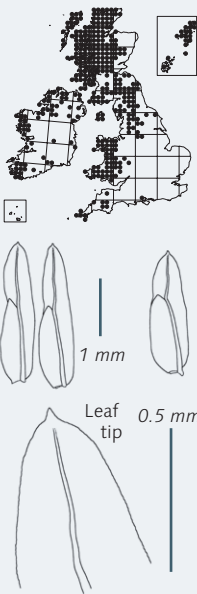


Fissidens osmundoides

Purple-stalked Pocket-moss

Key 102

**Identification**

A medium-sized *Fissidens* species, with shoots commonly 2.5–3 mm wide. The leaf is unborded, and no teeth are visible with a hand lens (microscopically, the margins have bulging cells); the nerve ends in or just below the leaf tip. Sporophytes are occasionally found, arising terminally on the shoot. The leaves almost always have a down-curved tip, giving shoots a distinctive, round-backed appearance not shown by other species of *Fissidens*.

Similar species

The rare *F. polyphyllus* (p. 417) is a much larger species, typically with more elongated leaves (commonly 4.5–6 times as long as wide, against 3–4.5 times in *F. osmundoides*), which are not down-curved. *F. taxifolius* (p. 415) differs in the shortly excurrent nerve.

Habitat

In damp, usually base-rich places in the uplands, including rock faces, mossy overhangs, beside streams and in flushes and wet, calcareous grassland.