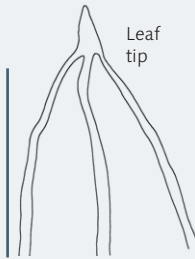
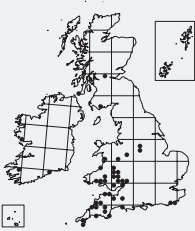


Fissidens rivularis

River Pocket-moss

Key 98

**Identification**

The dull, dark green shoots are 7–20 mm long, with narrowly tongue-shaped leaves, about 2.5 mm long. The leaves have a prominent, yellowish border that reaches the leaf tip. The nerve is also prominent, and reaches just beyond the tip of the leaf blade. Male organs are borne in bud-like branchlets in the axils of leaves (see drawing of *F. bryoides*, p. 407). Erect or slightly inclined, elliptical capsules occasionally form in autumn and winter. They are held on a slender, wavy seta that arises from the younger (upper) end of the shoots.

Similar species

F. crassipes and *F. rufulus* (p. 410) have male organs at the younger (upper) end of shoots, not in the leaf axils lower down, and the nerve does not form an excurrent point at the leaf tip. *F. bryoides* (p. 407) and *F. curnovii* (p. 408) are more delicate, with less prominent leaf borders. The rare *F. monguillonii* (Smith, p. 250) also has a thinner leaf border and nerve, and differs from other aquatic *Fissidens* species in having leaves around the base of the seta that are much narrower than other leaves on the shoot.

Habitat

F. rivularis grows on shaded, moist or submerged, neutral to acidic rocks in lowland streams, rivers, and by lakes. In the British Isles it avoids limestone.