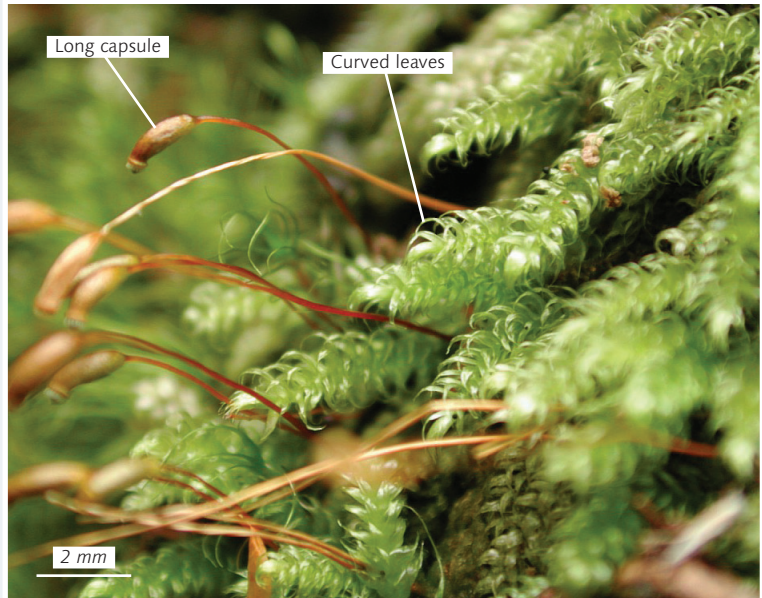
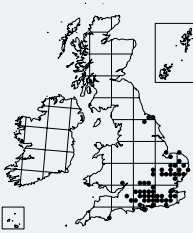


Herzogiella seligeri

Silesian Feather-moss



Identification This distinctive, showy moss forms shiny, pale green or yellowish patches, with shoots 1–2.5 cm long. The horizontal stems often root at the tip, with branches growing upwards to form tufts. Leaves are 1.3–2.5 mm long, with a long, tapering tip, and become wavy or irregularly bent when dry. Leaves near the end of the branches curve to one side. Examination of a shoot in profile reveals that the leaf base spreads away from the stem, and the tip curves both forwards and downwards. The nerve is short, faint or double. Capsules are usually abundant, and mature in spring and summer. They are inclined, strikingly long (2–2.5 mm in length) and narrow, curved, with a bluntly conical lid. Setae are about 1.8–3 cm tall.

Similar species No similar species have leaves that spread away from the stem, causing them to curve both forwards and downwards. *H. striatella* (p. 791) is a smaller, montane plant. The leaves of *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* (p. 788) are neither irregularly wavy nor have such a tapering tip, and *P. elegans* very rarely has capsules. *Isopterygiopsis pulchella* (p. 787) and *Plagiothecium latebricola* (p. 779) are smaller plants. The leaves of other *Plagiothecium* species (pp. 780–785) are short and pointed rather than long and tapering. Other similar mosses (e.g. *Brachythecium* species, pp. 741–752) have longer, usually single nerves that extend further towards the leaf tip. *Pylaisia polyantha* (p. 799) has erect capsules and usually grows on living trees. *Hypnum* species (pp. 802–810) have wider, shorter, less widely spaced leaves.

Habitat *H. seligeri* grows on rotten logs and stumps in broad-leaved woodland and open areas, often on non-native trees, particularly coppiced sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*).