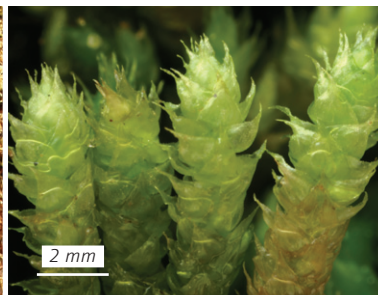
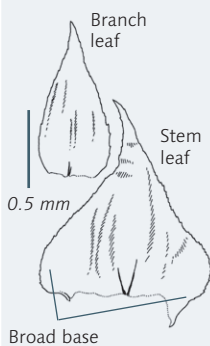
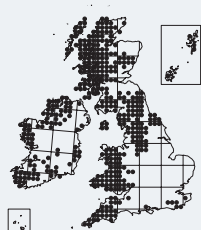


*Hyocomium armoricum**H. flagellare*

Flagellate Feather-moss

Key 314, 345

**Identification**

A green to golden brown, pinnately branched moss of streamsides. Typical shoots are 3–4 cm long, but may be longer. The rather crowded leaves spread away from the stem. Leaves are 1–1.5 mm long. Stem leaves are broadly triangular to egg-shaped, rapidly narrow to a sharp point, and are somewhat pleated and undulate, giving a crumpled appearance. The finely toothed margins can be seen with a 20 hand lens, and the nerve is short and double. Branch leaves are spearhead-shaped. Usually the leaves do not point in any particular direction, but may occasionally point somewhat in one direction. Capsules are rare; the seta is roughened.

Similar species

Plants with leaves pointing in one direction could be confused with *Ctenidium molluscum* (p. 812), which consistently has curved leaves that all point in one direction, as well as shorter, more crowded branches. *C. molluscum* usually grows in distinctly calcareous habitats.

Habitat

On wet or occasionally inundated rocks, stony banks and tree roots beside streams and rivers, usually in shade, in acidic or mildly base-rich habitats. Unlike some common river mosses, it is intolerant of summer drought, and often abundant on seeping banks. *H. armoricum* cannot withstand strong currents, and mature mats may become laden with sandy detritus and torn away by floods.