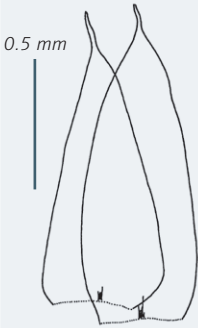
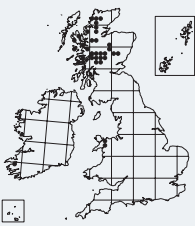


*Isopterygiopsis muelleriana**Isopterygium muellerianum*

Mueller's Silk-moss



Identification

I. muelleriana forms pale green or yellow-green, sparingly branched shoots flattened in one plane, several centimetres long and about 1.5 mm wide. The leaves are straight, 1.25 mm long, sometimes rather distantly placed on the stems, and taper rather abruptly to a fine point. The nerve is very short and double, or absent. Capsules are unknown in Britain. Few field characters distinguish this from similar mosses, but the long branches, and straight, strongly to slightly spreading (as seen from above the shoot), often rather distant leaves may give shoots a characteristic somewhat comb-like appearance. Identification should be confirmed by microscopy (the leaves are entire and do not run down onto the stem, and epidermal cells of the stem are thin-walled).

Similar species

Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans (p. 788) often has propagules in the form of thread-like branches, and grows in more acidic habitats. *Taxiphyllum wissgrillii* (p. 789) is quite similar in size and habit, but is a moss of low-lying ground. *I. muelleriana* is best distinguished from *Plagiothecium* species (pp. 779–785) by microscopy until it has become familiar.

Habitat

A montane species of moist, very sheltered, slightly base-enriched crevices in cliffs and in block scree. It is best looked for in crevices at the foot of north-facing crags.