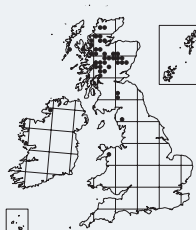
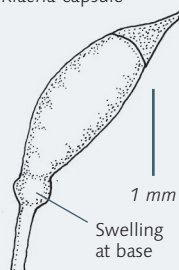


## *Kiaeria falcata*

Sickle-leaved Fork-moss



Generalized  
*Kiaeria* capsule



**Identification** This pretty moss grows in dense, yellow-green cushions or turfs up to 4 cm in depth. The leaves are 4 mm long, uniformly curved and point to one side when both moist and dry, and taper from a spearhead-shaped base to a long, fine, matt point. Capsules are relatively common and are egg-shaped, curved, and with a swelling at the base.

**Similar species** Looks like a small *Dicranum* species (pp. 377–387), such as *D. fuscescens* (p. 382) or *D. scoparium* (p. 378), but the small size, dense cushions and the regularly curved leaves pointing to one side, along with the montane habitat should lead in the right direction. It can be very similar to *K. starkei* (p. 375), but that species has leaves which are less regularly curved, with distinctly large, brown cells in the basal corners, and lack bumps above. These latter characters are not easy to see with a hand lens and some plants can be difficult to determine. *K. blyttii* (p. 374) is dark green or almost black, and has crisped leaves when dry.

**Habitat** A scarce, montane species growing on rocks and crags at high elevations in the mountains and usually associated with areas of late-lying snow where it can also occur on shallow mineral soils, sometimes forming extensive patches.