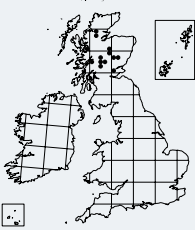


*Palustriella decipiens**Cratoneuron decipiens*

Lesser Curled Hook-moss



**Identification** *P. decipiens* resembles a small version of *P. commutata*. The shoots are typically 2–3 cm tall, regularly and pinnately branched. Stem leaves are pleated, curved and have a stout nerve. Apart from the smaller, more slender shoots, the most useful field pointer for *P. decipiens* is the short (about 1.25 mm long), triangularly heart-shaped stem leaves, which do not extend into a long slender point. Branch leaves are about 0.75 mm long. However, the identity of *P. decipiens* should always be confirmed by microscopical examination, which will reveal the presence of centrally placed protuberances on some of the basal cells at the back of the leaves.

**Similar species** *Ctenidium molluscum* (p. 812) and *Cratoneuron filicinum* (p. 701) are close to *P. decipiens* in size and general appearance. The leaves of *Ctenidium molluscum* lack a nerve and are not pleated. *Cratoneuron filicinum* does not have such strongly curved leaves, and also lacks pleats. Larger forms of *Abietinella abietina* (p. 695) are similar to *P. decipiens* in their pinnate branching and curved stem leaves, but *A. abietina* occurs in drier habitats and the branch leaves are hardly curved, being rigidly erect when dry, especially in var. *abietina*.

**Habitat** *P. decipiens* is confined to northern Britain and occurs mainly in calcareous mires and springs in the mountains. It does not occur on wet cliffs or in wet woodland.