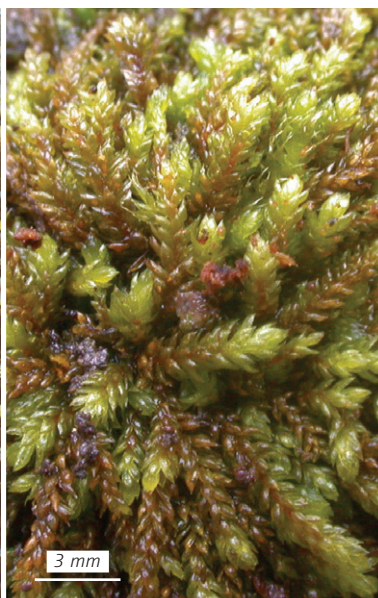
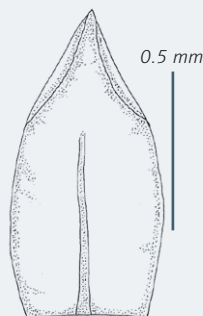
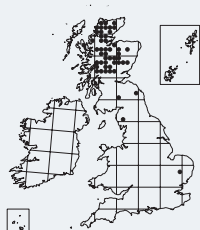


Pterigynandrum filiforme

Capillary Wing-moss



Identification *Pterigynandrum* looks very much like a miniature (branches less than 1 mm wide) version of the much commoner *Pterogonium gracile*, thanks to its down-curved branches. Its leaves are 0.75 mm long, bluntly pointed and have short, single or double nerves, not reaching above halfway to the tip. Colonies are often brown below, with a golden branch tip, but some patches are entirely green. Erect, cylindrical capsules are rare in summer.

Similar species *Pterogonium gracile* (p. 677) is similar in almost every way, but tends to be much more robust, with branches more than 1 mm wide. It is much more frequent than *Pterigynandrum filiforme*, especially in southern Britain. Plants of *Heterocladium heteropterum* (p. 687) tend to be flatter, the leaves taper to a longer tip, and they are usually dingy green.

Habitat Locally frequent in Scotland on exposed sandstone, limestone or igneous rocks. Although it grows on hillsides and in river gorges, *P. filiforme* tends to reach its maximum abundance on boulders on loch margins. It is also uncommon on mature trees with base-rich bark, especially ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and most of the small number of southern British records are of small colonies on bark.