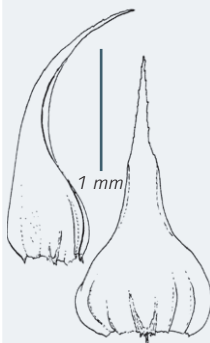
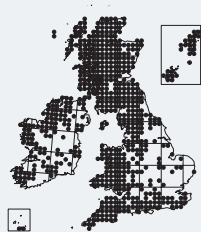


*Rhytidiadelphus loreus*

Little Shaggy-moss

Key 297, 341



**Identification** This robust (shoots often 15–20 cm long), irregularly pinnate, spreading moss has a red stem. The leaves are approximately 3 mm long and have a broad, oval base, which narrows to a long, tapering tip. The leaves are broadly spreading and curved, and all point more or less in the same direction. The leaf has lightly toothed margins and a short, double nerve. The surface is pleated. Fertile stems are not uncommon, and the 2 mm long, curved capsule is borne on a red seta about 3 cm long.

**Similar species** *R. squarrosus* (p. 818) is generally smaller and has leaves that bend strongly back and away from the stem, rather than being curved, giving the shoots a rather star-like appearance. *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* (p. 820) looks similar, but its stems and branches appear furry, being covered by many branched filaments.

**Habitat** *R. loreus* is common in acidic woods in upland districts, where it forms conspicuous stands. It also occurs in acidic grassland and on heathy slopes in the mountains of western Britain.