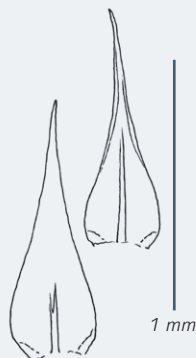
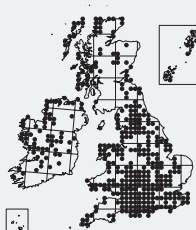


Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus

Campylium chrysophyllum

Golden Feather-moss



Identification

This rather slender moss forms irregularly branched, loose or dense, green or golden green patches. The stem leaves reach about 1.5 mm long, and are variously erect-spreading to reflexed, but curved (or strongly curved) leaves are often present. They narrow from an egg-shaped base to a long, tapering tip that is usually channelled. The shoot tip often has the star-like appearance that is characteristic of mosses with spreading leaves, as in the related *Campylium*. The leaves have a single nerve (rarely short and double), but this is hardly observable in the field, as it is thin and the leaves are small. Capsules are rare.

Similar species

Campylium protensum (p. 710) may be very similar, and the drier habitat of *C. chrysophyllus* is a useful pointer in the field. *Campylium protensum* also tends to have more widely spreading leaves. Microscopy is sometimes necessary to confirm the single nerve and compact cells in the basal margins of leaves of *C. chrysophyllus*. *Campylophyllum calcareum* (p. 795) is even more slender than *C. chrysophyllus* and has more finely tipped leaves that curve strongly away from the stem, and often grows in more shaded habitats. *Campylophyllum calcareum* can be distinguished microscopically by its finely toothed leaf base. *Campyliadelphus elodes* (p. 712) has a stronger nerve that extends to the leaf tip; this is usually easily observable in the field.

Habitat

C. chrysophyllus is characteristic of thin turf and the edges of stones and rocks in chalk and limestone grassland, on rock ledges and in calcareous dunes. It rarely persists for long in shaded places.