Myurella julacea
Small Mouse-tail Moss

Identification
This minute moss has shoots only about 1.5 cm long and less than 0.5 mm wide. Fresh shoots are smoothly cylindrical, wiry, branched, and silvery blue-green. The tiny, round leaves (about 0.4–0.5 mm long) are concave and usually have a blunt tip, giving shoots a slightly swollen appearance despite their minute size. *M. julacea* is variable, and some forms have a thin, straight leaf tip. Whether dry or moist, the leaves lie appressed to the stem. The nerve is short or absent. Capsules are rare, and develop in summer.

Similar species
The much rarer *M. tenerrima* (Smith, p. 863) is pale green or yellowish, and hence less glaucous. The leaves of *M. tenerrima* have a reflexed tip, and when moist they clasp the stems rather less closely than those of *M. julacea*. *M. tenerrima* also tends to form larger patches than *M. julacea*, and is typically a species of dry, base-rich soil near mica-schist rock on east- or south-facing cliffs above 600 m altitude. *Anomobryum julaceum* (p. 579) and *Plagiochrysum zieri* (p. 578) somewhat resemble *M. julacea*, but their leaves are about twice as big (1 mm long). The liverworts *Gymnomitrion* (pp. 162–164) and *Anthelia* (p. 109) also have tiny, silvery grey shoots.

Habitat
Shoots of *M. julacea* usually grow amongst other bryophytes or as small, pure patches on base-rich soil amongst rocks or in crevices on mountains. It is seldom present in much quantity.