Rhytidiadelphus loreus
Little Shaggy-moss

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.