**Seligeria patula/trifaria**

Triangular/Trifid Rock-bristle

*S. patula* and *S. trifaria* grow in shoots 2–4 mm tall and differ from other species of *Seligeria* in having narrow, pointed leaves that are less than 1 mm long, appressed and arranged in 3 distinct rows. However, the plants are often so encrusted with algae that this is hard to appreciate. Capsules are often present, but rather sparse, with a wide-mouthed, egg-shaped capsule held clear of the leaves on a short, straight, stout seta; the capsules have a peristome. Distinguishing the very rare *S. trifaria* from the uncommon *S. patula* requires a microscope and fertile material.

**Similar species** None of the other British and Irish species of *Seligeria* (pp. 545–549, 551) has 3-ranked leaves that are held against the stem.

**Habitat** On shaded, damp, often flushed, vertical, limestone rock faces, often encrusted with calcite and algae.

*Photos David Holyoak (left) & Sam Bosanquet (right) Text Nick Hodgetts*