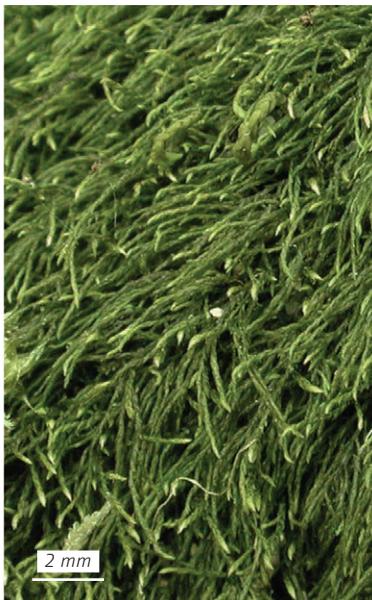
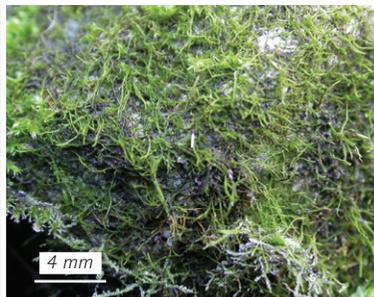


*Amblystegium confervoides**Platydictya confervoides*

Tiny Feather-moss



**Identification** A very slender pleurocarp; it is so small that the shoots appear like little, wiry threads. They form thin, mid- to dark green patches, usually on calcareous rock. The leaves are only about 0.25 mm long, broadly spearhead-shaped, tapering at the tip, and held erect or appressed. They are too small for any further details to be observed in the field. However, capsules (about 1 mm long) are often present, and their strongly curved shape and more or less horizontal position are very useful field characters.

**Similar species** *Platydictya jungermannioides* (p. 778) is similar in size and leaf shape, but the presence of rhizoids arising from the leaf axils is an important distinguishing character. Its leaves are somewhat more spreading and have a more finely tapering tip. *P. jungermannioides* is rarely found with capsules, but when present they are erect or nearly so. Unusually slender forms of *A. serpens* (p. 702) may be almost as small as *A. confervoides*, and if growing on rock may not be distinguishable without microscopical examination (which will show a distinct if short nerve in *A. serpens*). *Heterocladium flaccidum* (p. 687) is also very slender, but the leaf tip is acute rather than finely tapering, and it is not known to produce capsules. *Habrodon perpusillus* (p. 686) invariably grows on bark, and this should prevent confusion in the field. *Conardia compacta* (p. 708) has a long leaf nerve that can usually be detected with a hand lens, and its leaves are widely spreading.

**Habitat** *A. confervoides* is rare on shaded, calcareous stones and rocks, especially in limestone woodland, and sometimes also on outcrops on open hillsides.