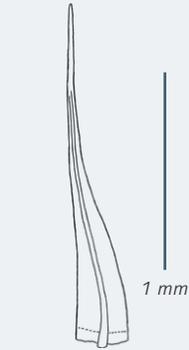
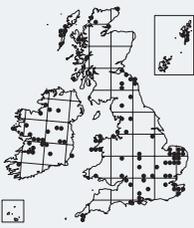


*Campyliadelphus elodes**Campylium elodes*

Fine-leaved Feather-moss



Identification

C. elodes is rather slender, with irregularly and rather loosely branched, dull green or yellow-green shoots. The leaves are very narrowly spearhead-shaped, gradually tapering from base to tip, and widely spreading or somewhat curved. They have a long, single nerve, which can usually be observed with a good hand lens on the larger stem leaves. The more robust shoots may reach 5–6 cm or more in length, and the stem leaves are about 2 mm long. Microscopical examination will confirm the presence of small, distinct, compact patches of cells at the leaf base. Capsules are rarely seen.

Similar species

A number of slender pleurocarps are similar to *C. elodes*, but differ in having a shorter nerve, not extending into the leaf tip. They include *C. chrysophyllus* (p. 711), which occurs in drier habitats, *Amblystegium serpens* (p. 702), usually a very small plant when it occurs on damp sand, and *Drepanocladus polygamus* (p. 713), which is generally a much larger moss. *Cratoneuron filicinum* (p. 701) has a strong nerve like *C. elodes*, but has distinctly wider stem leaves that are more or less triangularly heart-shaped below. With careful observation it is usually possible to see the large, distinct patches of cells at the base of *C. filicinum* leaves, and, if well-developed, the miniature leaf-like structures on the stems.

Habitat

A species of moist and wet habitats, especially those that are periodically submerged, growing in turf and among other bryophytes, sometimes on wood, especially in base-rich marshes and seepages, on damp sand, and in slacks and ditches in sand dunes. It can be locally abundant on sedge (*Carex*) or grass tussocks in calcareous fens.