

Campylium protensum

C. stellatum var. *protensum*

Dull Starry Feather-moss



Identification *C. protensum* closely resembles *C. stellatum* (p. 709). It has prostrate rather than erect shoots, and these tend to be more regularly pinnate. It is generally smaller, the stem leaves mostly being in the range 1–2 mm long. The leaf tip makes up a greater proportion of the leaf (about two-thirds to three-quarters). It very rarely produces capsules.

Similar species Apart from the very similar *C. stellatum* (p. 709), *C. protensum* is also readily confused with *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* (p. 711) which has less widely spreading leaves and a nerve that is usually visible in the field. *C. protensum* could also be confused with *Campylophyllum calcareum* (p. 795). However, *Campylophyllum calcareum* is more slender, with stem leaves rarely exceeding 1 mm long, and occurs in dry habitats. Microscopical examination is necessary to confirm the more compact (not inflated) cells at the basal margins of leaves and finely toothed leaf base of *Campylophyllum calcareum*.

Habitat *C. protensum* occurs in similar habitats to *C. stellatum*, including base-rich flushes and seepages, but more often it occurs in drier places, in turf, on moist rocks and stones and on rock ledges.