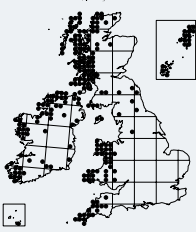


*Entosthodon attenuatus**Funaria attenuata*

Thin Cord-moss



Identification

Grows in scattered shoots or loose tufts up to 5 mm tall. The leaves are 1.5–2.5 mm long, spreading, with large, lax cells, easily visible with a 10 hand lens. The rhizoids at the base of the stems are deep cherry-red. Capsules are frequent, reddish, erect, with a low, smoothly domed lid with no beak, and taper gradually into the seta.

Similar species

E. obtusus (p. 563) has a shorter, almost spherical capsule abruptly narrowed to the seta. The cherry-red rhizoids of *E. attenuatus* distinguish non-fertile material from all related species, including *E. obtusus* and *E. fascicularis* (p. 564), in which the rhizoids tend to be brownish. *Funaria hygrometrica* (p. 561) nearly always has capsules present on a much longer and very contorted seta. *Physcomitrium pyriforme* (p. 565) is larger (up to 5 mm tall) with capsules having a beaked lid. Species of *Bryum* (pp. 581–599), *Pohlia* (pp. 603–611) and related genera have much smaller leaf cells. *Bruchia vogesiaca* (*Journal of Bryology* 29, 135–136) is a rare summer-annual of damp, disturbed, acidic soil, presently known only from one site in Cornwall. It grows up to 6–7 mm tall when fruiting, so is most likely to be noticed then. Its capsule has a long neck tapering into the seta (rather like *E. attenuatus*), which is between half and 3 times as long as the capsule itself, and borne on a seta 3–5 mm long. The narrowly linear leaves of *B. vogesiaca* are much more like those of *Pseudephemerum nitidum* (p. 341) or a *Dicranella* species (pp. 366–371) than those of *E. attenuatus*, and are surrounded by a persistent protonema, but non-fertile *B. vogesiaca* is only about 1 mm tall, so is unlikely to attract attention. The very rare *Trematodon ambiguus* (Smith, p. 166) also has a capsule with a very long neck, but *T. ambiguus* is considerably bigger (2–3 cm tall), with a seta longer than 5 mm.

Habitat

Wet, peaty soil in western areas, such as in ditches, rock crevices, etc. *E. attenuatus* is especially frequent near the coast and in humid ravines.