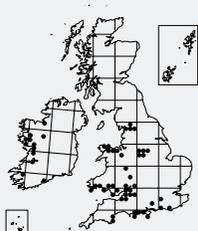


# *Eurhynchium striatum*

*Plasteurhynchium striatum*, *Isothecium striatum*

Lesser Striated Feather-moss



**Identification** *E. striatum* is dark green, with a bushy growth form, i.e. shoots grow away from the substrate, and the branches tend to be clustered towards the tip of the stems. Small, compact forms may only reach 1 cm, but the shoots are normally larger, to about 5 cm. Branch leaves are 1–1.5 mm long, narrowly triangular or triangularly spearhead-shaped, but with a heart-shaped base. The rather rigid branches spread at an angle of 30–45°, giving shoots a characteristically spiky appearance. Leaves on the main stems are a little larger, have a wider base, and a more tapering tip. The leaf surface is folded or wrinkled, most obviously on the main stem leaves, but not so strongly as in *E. striatum*. The nerve is strong, reaching almost to the leaf tip, and the margins are finely toothed. Slightly curved, egg-shaped to elliptical capsules are rare; they have a long-beaked lid.

**Similar species** Because of its bushy form, it closely resembles *Isothecium* species, especially *I. myosuroides* (p. 736). The latter is normally lighter green, its shoots lack the spiky appearance often shown by *E. striatum*, and the leaves are not wrinkled. Unlike *I. myosuroides*, *E. striatum* favours calcareous rocks. The leaves have a similar shape to those of *E. striatum* (p. 764), and are wrinkled as in that species, but narrower. The resemblance ends there, as *E. striatum* has more or less pinnate branching, and grows loosely on the ground or among rocks rather than on them. *Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri* (p. 770) sometimes has leaves slightly wrinkled lengthwise, but it does not have a bushy growth form, and it grows on soil, typically with conspicuous underground stems (seen by lifting a mat of the moss and examining the underside).

**Habitat** *E. striatum* grows on calcareous rocks, stones and walls, rarely also on tree roots. The habitat is usually lightly to moderately shaded, and often in woodland. It is a southern species and favours warm, dry sites.