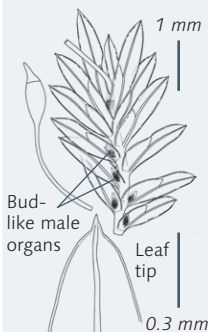
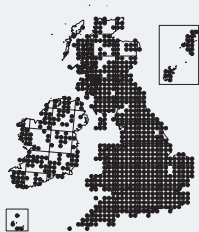


Fissidens bryoides

Lesser Pocket-moss

Key 100



Identification This is the commonest of a number of *Fissidens* species which have the leaves bordered by long, narrow cells; this pale glistening border can be seen with a good hand lens. Shoots are 3–20 mm long. The male organs are borne on very short lateral branchlets; these can usually be seen as a number of bud-like structures in the leaf axils when a shoot is held up to the light. Capsules are frequent and erect; the seta arises terminally on the shoot.

Similar species Several less frequent species share the characters of bordered leaves and of male organs in bud-like branchlets: *F. curvovii* (p. 408) has red-violet rhizoids and typically grows in wetter, acidic places; *F. monguillonii* (Smith, p. 250) has very narrow leaves at the tip of the shoots, nearest the seta, and grows in wet, muddy places; *F. rivularis* (p. 409) has a heavily thickened leaf border and grows in calcareous streams. *F. incurvus* (p. 406) is very similar to *F. bryoides*, but the mature capsule is inclined, and male organs are not found in bud-like branches.

Habitat This is a mainly lowland species, and is common on neutral or mildly acidic soil in woodland, on streamsides, arable fields and in gardens. It avoids very acidic or permanently wet substrates, and is rarely found directly on rock.