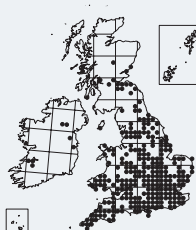


Fissidens exilis

Slender Pocket-moss

Key 97

**Identification**

Thin patches or scattered, pale green shoots, 1.5–3 mm long, with 2–4 pairs of leaves. Each leaf may grow up to 1.5 mm long, but the lower leaves are extremely small. The leaf margins have no border of elongated cells, and the nerve ends in the tip. Leaves surrounding the base of the seta differ little from other leaves. Red, 4–6 mm tall setae bearing an erect, elliptical capsule arise from among the terminal leaves. Capsules are common from autumn to spring, especially in winter.

Similar species

F. celticus (p. 412) is taller, has more leaves, and does not produce capsules. Leaves of *F. viridulus* (p. 404) have a border of elongated cells. *F. pusillus* (p. 405) usually has more leaves, and typically grows on rock or stone, rather than soil.

Habitat

F. exilis grows on neutral or acidic loam and clay in low-lying woodland, on sheltered (often shady) banks, molehills, streamsides, and in damp fields and grassland.