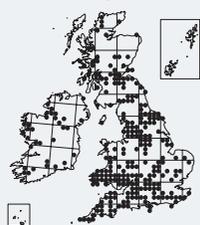
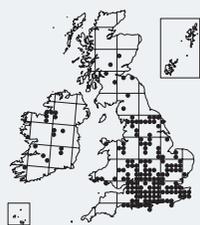
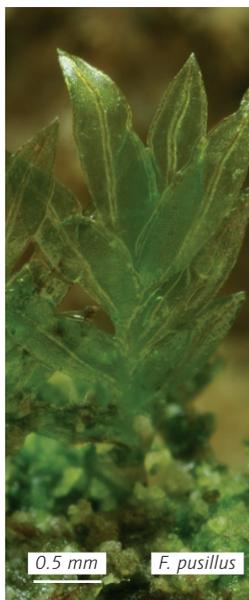


*Fissidens pusillus/gracilifolius*

Petty/Narrow-leaved Pocket-moss

Key 97

*F. pusillus**F. gracilifolius*

0.5 mm

*F. pusillus*

3 mm

*F. pusillus*

2 mm

*F. gracilifolius*

## Identification

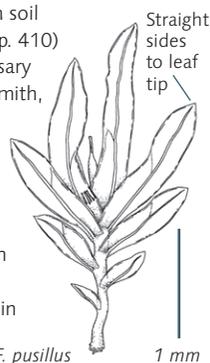
A minute *Fissidens* with bordered leaves, growing directly on rock, is likely to be one of these two species. The shoots are usually only 1–1.5 mm wide, and fertile shoots are no more than 5 mm tall (although non-fertile shoots in wet places may be a little taller). The leaf tip is acute with straight or convex sides. *F. gracilifolius* differs from *F. pusillus* having very elongated leaves at the top of the shoot near the base of the seta (compare with *F. limbatus*, p. 404), and is typically found in dry habitats, but *F. gracilifolius* and *F. pusillus* are difficult to distinguish. These two species are part of a difficult complex of species (with *F. limbatus* and *F. viridulus*), and have to be confirmed by microscopical examination.

## Similar species

*F. limbatus* and *F. viridulus* (p. 404) differ in the leaf tip with usually concave sides, but the difference is small; these species often occur on soil (although *F. limbatus* can also be found on rock). *F. crassipes* (p. 410) is a larger plant, but microscopical examination is often necessary to distinguish it from aquatic plants of *F. pusillus*. *F. exiguus* (Smith, p. 243) grows on rocks in rivers and lacks leaf borders, except on the leaves at the end of the shoot, nearest the seta.

## Habitat

Growing directly on rock in a range of wet or dry habitats, on limestone or siliceous rock. Minute, fruiting plants on rock in rivers are likely to be *F. pusillus*, but this species also occurs on rock fragments on the ground in dry habitats. *F. gracilifolius* is typical of dry habitats, but the two species are poorly distinct in both form and habitat.

*F. pusillus*

1 mm