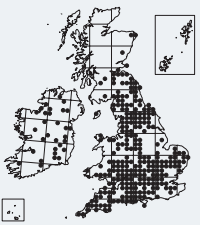
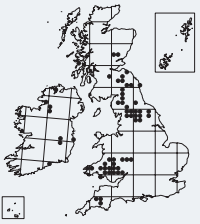
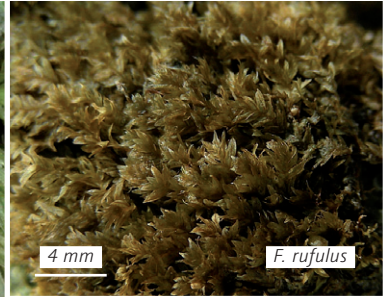
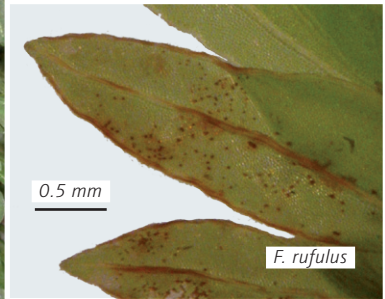


Fissidens crassipes/rufulus

Fatfoot/Beck Pocket-moss

Key 98

*F. crassipes**F. rufulus**F. crassipes**F. rufulus**F. rufulus*

Identification

These two medium-sized *Fissidens* species are commonly 2 mm wide and 5–17 mm or more tall, and grow on rocks beside streams and lakes. The leaves have a border of long narrow cells, which is visible with a hand lens, and ends below the leaf tip. The male and female organs are borne on separate plants, and the bud-like lateral male branches which are a feature of the aquatic *F. rivularis* and *F. mougillonii* are absent. *F. crassipes* and *F. rufulus* can only be distinguished from each other microscopically.

Similar species

F. pusillus (p. 405) is a smaller plant, but microscopical examination of fertile plants is often needed for confirmation. *F. curnovii* (p. 408), *F. mougillonii* (Smith, p. 250) and *F. rivularis* (p. 409) have male organs in bud-like lateral branches in the leaf axils.

Habitat

On permanently or intermittently submerged rocks and stonework beside rivers, lakes and artificial ponds; most abundant in more or less calcareous sites, growing on limestone or siliceous rocks, avoiding markedly acidic waters. *F. rufulus* is rarer than *F. crassipes*, but is locally frequent in the Pennines and the south Wales uplands.

