Fissidens viridulus/limbatus

F. limbatus = F. crispus

Green/Herzog's Pocket-moss

Key 97



F. viridulus

3



viridulus

F. limbatus

Identification A minute Fissidens with bordered leaves and growing on soil 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. The leaf tip is acute with concave sides. These species are part of a difficult complex of species (with F. gracilifolius and F. pusillus), and have to be confirmed by microscopical examination. Differentiated, long leaves around the seta may be a useful pointer for selecting potential F. limbatus for checking (compare with F. gracilifolius, p. 405).

Similar species F. gracilifolius and F. pusillus (p. 405) differ in the leaf tip with usually straight or convex sides, but this difference is small; those species also grow directly on rock. F. bryoides (p. 407) is usually a slightly larger plant and has the male organs in bud-like axillary branches. F. incurvus (p. 406) has an inclined capsule.

Habitat These species grow on calcareous to slightly acidic soil banks in woodland and beside streams; F. limbatus sometimes grows directly on rock.

