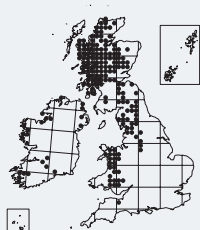


*Isopterygiopsis pulchella**Isopterygium pulchellum*

Neat Silk-moss

**Identification**

The capsules of this moss are usually the first thing that catches the eye, as the 1.25 cm long shoots are so slender they are hard to spot when growing through moss cushions. It is a slender, green, irregularly branched plant. The leaves are 1.25 mm long, held away from the stem and usually point in one direction when moist. They gradually taper into long, fine points, and the nerve is very short and double, or absent. The 2 mm long, narrow, slightly curved capsules are frequently produced.

Similar species

Orthothecium intricatum (p. 776) usually differs in its larger size and pink-tinged shoots; green or faded specimens differ from *I. pulchella* in the leaves held erect to slightly away from the stem; also it is dioicous and capsules are very rarely produced.

Habitat

This is mainly an upland plant, which grows in crevices and under overhangs on moist, base-rich cliffs. It is often found creeping through cushions of *Amphidium mougeotii* or *Anoetangium aestivum*.