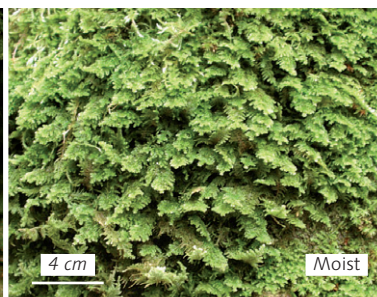
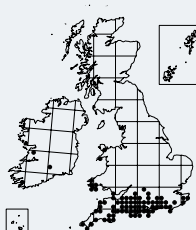


Leptodon smithii

Prince-of-Wales Feather-moss



Identification *L. smithii* is distinctive when moist, characterized by its dark green branches up to about 2.5 cm long, and rather crowded leaves, somewhat less than 1 mm long, with an extremely rounded tip. The nerve is single, fairly short and faint, and the leaf cells are not elongated. As it dries, *L. smithii* assumes an unmistakable habit, with tightly inrolled branches. Capsules occasionally form, borne on a seta only 1.5–2 mm long.

Similar species It is almost impossible to think of anything with which *L. smithii* could be confused.

Habitat *L. smithii* is usually found on the trunks and larger branches of mature trees in woods, parks and hedgerows. It often grows in dry microsites, such as the underside of large branches. It is rarely found on walls and calcareous rocks, a commoner habitat for this moss in southern Europe.