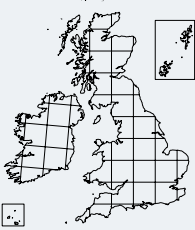


# *Paludella squarrosa*

Tufted Fen-moss



**Identification** A highly distinctive species, with the bright, pale green, strongly toothed leaves 1.5–2.5 mm long, arranged in 5 ranks, curving strongly away from the stem, contrasting markedly with the dark orange mat of rhizoids that densely clothe the stem. Shoots are 3–7 cm tall. Capsules are unknown in the British Isles.

**Similar species** Not easily confused with any other species. Species of *Philonotis* (pp. 633–639) can be similar in colour, but the very distinctly 5-ranked leaves that curve strongly away from the stem in *Paludella* are diagnostic.

**Habitat** Very wet, rich fen. Formerly found at three sites in northern England, *P. squarrosa* was long thought to be extinct in the British Isles, but a colony was discovered in Co. Mayo in 1998.