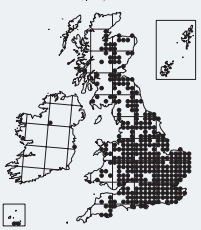
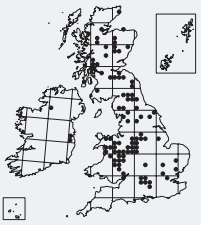


Plagiothecium curvifolium/laetum

Curved/Bright Silk-moss

*P. curvifolium**P. laetum**P. curvifolium**P. curvifolium*

Identification

The glossy shoots grow up to 2 cm long, arranged in one plane, and sometimes form extensive patches on acidic substrates. The leaves are about 2.5 mm long, markedly asymmetrical, smaller than in some related species, and are usually turned downwards. Capsules (2 mm long) are very frequently produced, and are smooth when mature and dry (reports to the contrary are errors); they are inclined and curved in *P. curvifolium*, but more or less erect and straight in *P. laetum*. These species can be suspected in the field, but microscopic characters (especially the narrow leaf cells) are recommended for confirmation. They are closely related to each other, and some specimens may be difficult to identify.

Similar species

P. denticulatum (pp. 780–781) differs in the slightly larger size, the leaves not distinctly down-turned, and in the furrowed capsules. *P. nemorale* and *P. succulentum* (p. 784) are typically larger and have more or less symmetrical leaves.

Habitat

On soil, litter, logs, tree bases and rocks, mainly in woodland. *P. curvifolium* occurs on low-lying ground, and is often found on leaf litter or tree stumps under conifers in plantations. *P. laetum* is more frequent in the north and west of Britain, and is also known from amongst boulders in upland districts, though not at high altitudes.

