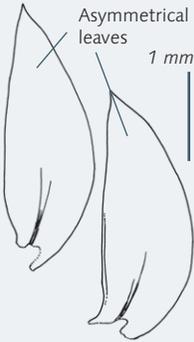
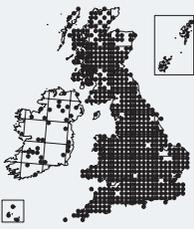


Plagiothecium denticulatum var. *denticulatum*

Dentated Silk-moss

Key 296



Identification *P. denticulatum* has leaves arranged in one plane. Its sparingly branched shoots are often light green, translucent and noticeably glossy, although darker and less glossy plants can also occur. The leaves are about 1.5–2.5 mm long and distinctly asymmetrical in shape, with one side more strongly curved than the other. Inclined, curved, shortly cylindrical capsules about 1 mm long are common in var. *denticulatum*, and have longitudinal furrows when mature and dry. Examination with a 20 hand lens of stems after some leaves have been stripped off will reveal rounded cells in the basal corners of the leaves typical of *P. denticulatum*. Plants with wavy, strongly asymmetrical leaves and with one of the margins mostly straight were previously referred to as var. *undulatum* (*P. ruthei*), but this variety is no longer regarded as distinct.

Similar species *P. succulentum* and *P. nemorale* (p. 784) have less translucent, more or less symmetrical leaves; capsules in those species are less frequently produced and are not furrowed. Microscopic characters are recommended for confirmation. *P. denticulatum* var. *obtusifolium* (p. 781) has a more shortly pointed leaf tip.

Habitat On soil, rocks, logs and tree bases, mostly in woodland, but also occasionally in upland block scree and rock crevices. The wavy-leaved form tends to occur in wetter places, in swamps and wet woodland. *P. denticulatum* var. *denticulatum* is often found in small quantity, and is far less ubiquitous than the map suggests.