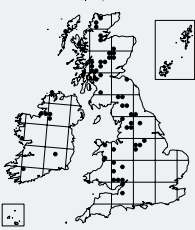


Platydictya jungermannioides

Spruce's Leskea



Identification This tiny pleurocarp forms very delicate, thin, hair-like, pale green patches or fine wefts of irregularly branched, fragile stems. Rhizoids, purplish when young, may be observed in some of the leaf axils. The leaves have a long, fine tip and are without a nerve, but are hard to see, being only about 0.3 mm long. They are held away from the stem when both wet and dry. Capsules are very rare.

Similar species Purplish rhizoids in some leaf axils may help distinguish *P. jungermannioides* from other similarly small plants. *Amblystegium confervoides* (p. 705) is duller green with leaves that are appressed when dry, and it tends to grow appressed to rocks. *Heterocladium flaccidum* (p. 687) is darker, with larger, more shortly pointed leaves. Some forms of *Amblystegium serpens* (p. 702) are almost as slender, but a nerve is usually visible.

Habitat A moss of damp, shaded rock crevices, usually limestone, in woods or sheltered ravines.