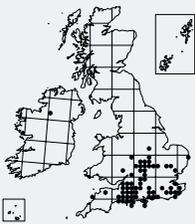
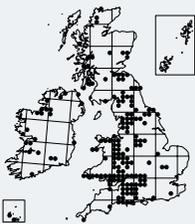


*Rhynchostegiella curviseta/teneriffae**R. teneriffae* = *R. teesdalei*

Curve-stalked/Teesdale Feather-moss

*R. curviseta**R. teneriffae**R. curviseta**R. teneriffae**R. curviseta**R. teneriffae*

Identification

These two species are very similar, but have different geographical distributions. Where their distributions overlap, identification should be confirmed microscopically. Shoots are small and irregularly branched, sometimes wiry in appearance, and dark to blackish-green. The leaves have a distinctive shape that is not shared by most other small pleurocarps. They are generally 0.5–1 mm long, narrowly spearhead-shaped or elliptical, about 3–5 times longer than wide, gradually narrowed, but blunt or shortly pointed at the extreme tip. They have a single nerve of varying length, but this can hardly be observed in the field. Capsules (1 mm long) are fairly frequent and have the characteristically curved, asymmetrical, but egg-like shape found in many related species. The lid is beaked and the seta is roughened.

Similar species

R. tenella (p. 771) has a more finely drawn out leaf tip, making it look silky. *R. pumila* (p. 773) has wider leaves, less than 3 times longer than wide. *Amblystegium serpens* (p. 702) is similar in size, but its leaves narrow (often rapidly so at mid-leaf) to fine points, and its curved and cylindrical capsules are longer, with a blunt lid. *Conardia compacta* (p. 708) has leaves that are distinctly broader towards the base, and the shoots have a softer texture, forming lax patches that appear crinkly because of the irregularly spreading leaves. It never produces capsules.

Habitat

Both *R. teneriffae* and *R. curviseta* grow on damp or wet rocks by streams and on dripping crags. *R. curviseta* has a mainly southern distribution, occurring on stones, bridge supports and similar substrates, rarely on tree roots, by streams and water courses, but also sometimes on moist, shaded cuttings and banks, on at least mildly base-rich rocks, including sandstone. *R. teneriffae* has a much wider distribution, but likewise occurs on sandstone and base-rich rocks. In limestone districts it may occur on dripping cliffs and tufa, as well as on the banks of streams, often in dark places. It prefers situations that are washed or splashed by water rather than submerged.

Photos Michael Lüth Text Tom Blockeel