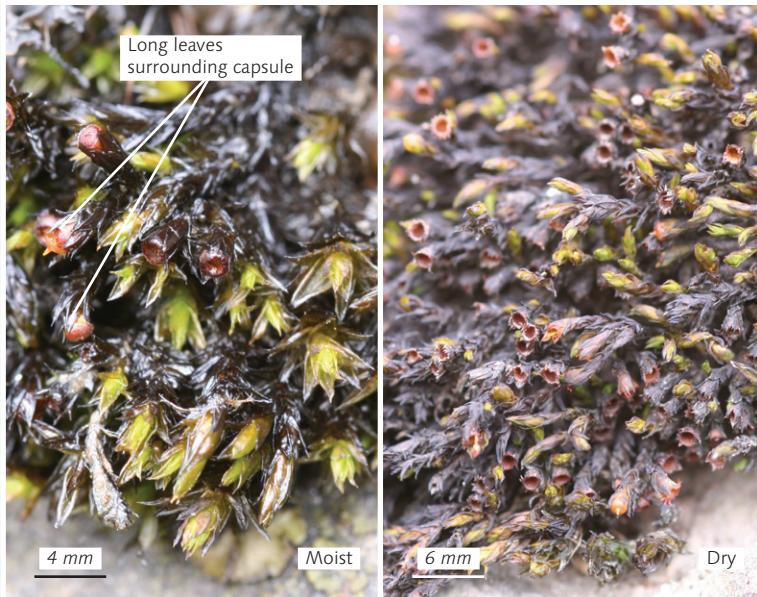
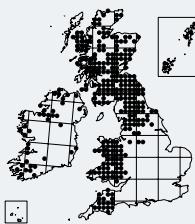


# *Schistidium rivulare*

River Grimmia

Key 203



## Identification

A straggly, dark green moss found on rocks in rivers. The branched shoots are several centimetres long, with leaves 2–2.5 mm long. The leaves lack a hair point, are usually curved, and have recurved margins. Capsules are very short and broad, and are typically very dark red. They are well-hidden by the long leaves that surround them and you may have to search the lower part of the stem in order to find capsules, especially outside the fruiting season of late winter when old, tattered capsules may be all that remain.

## Similar species

Its close relative *S. platyphyllum* (p. 508) differs in having shorter, wider, straight lower leaves, while the leaves sheathing the capsules are also shorter, and do not project beyond the capsules. *S. agassizii* (p. 509) has parallel-sided, tongue-shaped leaves with plane margins. *S. apocarpum* (p. 510) almost always has hair points and its capsules are longer and narrower. *Cinclidotus fontinaloides* (p. 502) is straggly and dark green like *S. rivulare*, but has wider leaves with thick margins that are easily visible with a hand lens, and long, narrow, pointed capsules. *Racomitrium aciculare* (p. 534) has shorter, wider leaves, with a wide, flat, toothed tip. *Orthotrichum rivulare* (p. 650) has a rounded tip to the straight leaves, and its capsules are strongly furrowed when dry.

## Habitat

A common plant of rocks, wall bases and tree roots in fast-flowing rivers in the north and west. The leeward sides of rocks tend to be favoured. *S. rivulare* is submerged for part of the year, although on rivers with large, seasonal fluctuations in water level it grows higher up the flood zone than *Fontinalis* species and *Platyhypnidium riparioides*. More rarely it grows on the margins of reservoirs or on boulders by lochs.