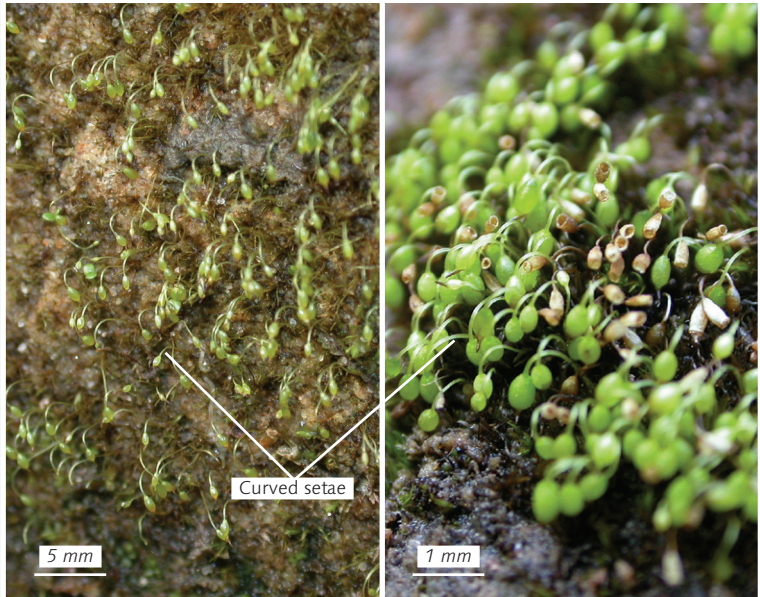
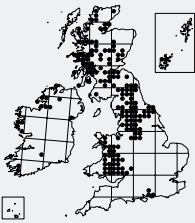


*Seligeria recurvata*

Recurved Rock-bristle

Key 138



**Identification** The curved seta is the first thing that strikes one about *S. recurvata*. It is a minute (shoots 1–3 mm tall), brownish plant, growing in thin, bristly mats. Leaves are 1.5–2 mm long, spearhead-shaped and sharply pointed. Capsules are common, slightly elongated and egg-shaped, held clear of the leaves on a curved seta (wavy when dry). The capsule has a peristome.

**Similar species** Most other species of *Seligeria* have a straight seta and bright green leaves. *S. campylopoda* (Smith, p. 484) is a much rarer species with a curved seta (but straight when dry). It has shorter leaves and grows on hard, shaded, calcareous rocks, especially pebbles of limestone on the woodland floor. *Campylostelium saxicola* (p. 543) grows in similar habitats and has a somewhat more elongated capsule on a wavier, less regularly curved seta, but can be very difficult to distinguish in the field.

**Habitat** Much the commonest *Seligeria* in western Britain. It grows on rocks, particularly sandstone, especially by streams and on cliff bases. Colonies sometimes cover extensive areas.