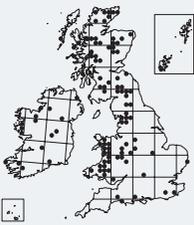


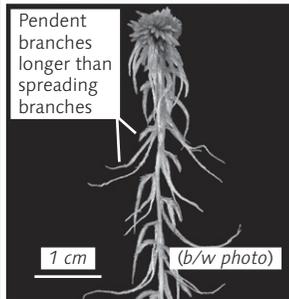
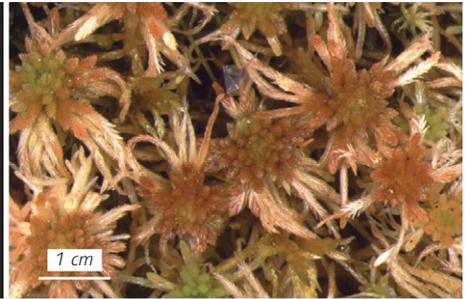
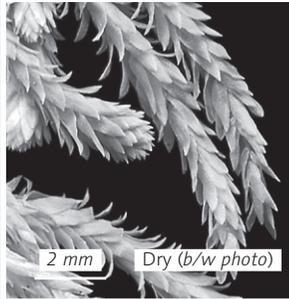
*Sphagnum angustifolium**S. recurvum* var. *tenue*

Fine Bog-moss

Section Cuspidata



Stem leaf



Identification

Small- to medium-sized, green or mustard-brown, with a convex capitulum (sometimes markedly so, like pom-poms). Branch leaves are in straight lines in the basal half of spreading branches. Except when in shade, spreading branches are pinkish near the base, sometimes extensively so. Pendent branches are longer than spreading branches, with some up to twice as long, very thin and almost white. Stem leaves are small, roughly equilateral-triangular, with a blunt tip, which may be slightly eroded or look notched (if leaf margins are inrolled it can look deceptively pointed; check several to be sure). When dry, the spreading branch leaves are conspicuously recurved (see top left photograph). Capsules have not been reliably reported from Britain or Ireland.

Similar species

Distinguished from *S. fallax* (p. 306) and *S. flexuosum* (p. 308) by very thin pendent branches, which are consistently longer than the spreading branches. Its stem leaf is the smallest of the three allied species, the blunt tip distinguishing it from *S. fallax*. *S. fallax* may also have pinkish branches, but this colour is normally restricted to the extreme base. *S. flexuosum* is never strongly coloured, has a longer stem leaf, with a more obviously blunt or fringed tip, and lacks any trace of pink in branches or stems. Its branches are not as well-differentiated and its pendent branches are mostly shorter than the spreading ones. Its branch leaves are larger and more loosely set around the branch stems. When dry, shoots of *S. angustifolium* and *S. flexuosum* look very different, with the dry leaves of the former conspicuously recurved, whilst those of the latter looked puffed-out, with the tip more or less parallel to the branch stem.

Habitat

S. angustifolium mostly occurs in mineral-rich sites. It is generally more base-demanding than *S. fallax* and *S. flexuosum*, but may be found with both species. Occasionally, it grows in less mineral-rich sites. This is an under-recorded species.