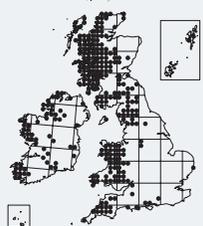
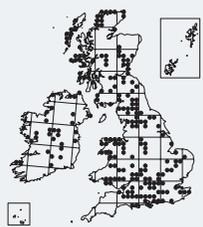
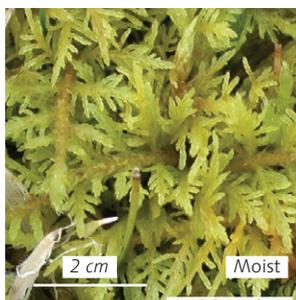
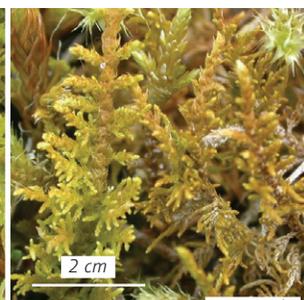
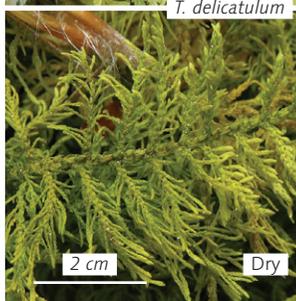
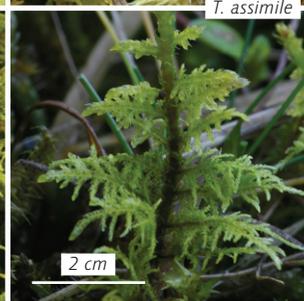


*Thuidium delicatulum/assimile**T. philibertii* = *T. assimile*

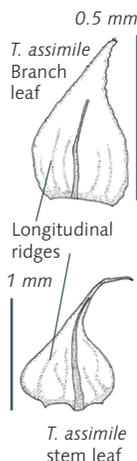
Delicate/Philibert's Tamarisk-moss

*T. delicatulum**T. assimile**T. delicatulum**T. assimile*

Dry



2 cm



Identification

These two species look very similar to the commoner *T. tamariscinum*, and it is worthwhile collecting any plant that looks slightly different for checking with a microscope. The shoots are bi- or tripinnate, and are usually 8–10 cm long (although large plants may be up to 20 cm long), bright green above and reddish-brown below. Stem leaves are 1.5–2 mm long and longitudinally ridged. In *T. delicatulum*, the tip of the stem leaves is not reflexed when dry; in *T. assimile* it is, as well as being longer and wispier. Otherwise, these two species can only be distinguished by microscopical features, and even then many gatherings show a combination of features intermediate between the two. The branches are hardly arranged in one plane. Branch leaves are up to 0.5 mm long. *T. delicatulum* occasionally forms capsules in winter. *T. assimile* has never been found with capsules in Britain.

Similar species

Apart from intergrading with each other, robust forms of these two species are extremely similar to *T. tamariscinum* (p. 696) and can only be reliably distinguished from that species by microscopic features. However, compared with *T. tamariscinum*, they are typically smaller mosses, with branches less obviously arranged in one plane. *T. recognitum* (Smith, p. 752) resembles both species, but is consistently bipinnate, is usually rather orange, and has the nerve reaching the tip of the stem leaves. It is characteristically found on limestone pavement, often where there is light shade, but is very scarce.

Habitat

T. delicatulum grows in damp grassland and flushes, on damp ledges in the mountains, on shaded rocks, banks and soil in woodland, quarries and on roadside banks. *T. assimile* favours grazed, calcareous turf over chalk and limestone; it also grows in base-rich dunes, including machair. It is less frequent on damp, base-rich rocks in woodland, and in ravines and on rock ledges in the mountains.