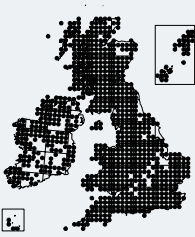


Campylopus pyriformis

Dwarf Swan-neck Moss

Key 149



Identification In short, untidy, dense, yellow-green to mid-green turfs and spreading patches to 3 cm tall, but usually less than 1 cm. Patches are often covered with deciduous leaves or shoot tips. The leaves are 2.5–7.5 mm long, erect and more or less straight when moist, and the longer upper leaves become somewhat wavy when dry. The nerve is wide, filling up to 50% of the leaf base, the basal cells are colourless and the basal marginal cells do not usually form distinct patches. Capsules are occasional on a wavy seta which may curve down so that the capsule is hidden amongst the leaves.

Similar species Usually easily distinguished by the very short, yellow-green turfs with deciduous leaves and shoots, but occasionally very difficult to distinguish from *C. flexuosus* (p. 395). *C. flexuosus* usually has leaves with a narrower outline, distinct patches of basal marginal cells and a narrower nerve, but in some plants the only certain distinction is the nerve section.

Habitat This is the commonest *Campylopus* species in the south and east of England, growing on bare, acidic peaty or sandy soils in woodland or on moorland, often favouring sites where there has been some disturbance on banks, ditches or burnt ground. It may also be found growing on peaty soil in plant pots.