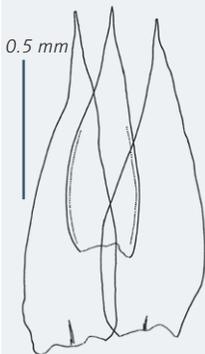


Plagiothecium latebricola

Alder Silk-moss



Identification *P. latebricola* is a very slender, pale green moss, with shoots up to 2 cm long, arranged more or less in one plane. Its longly tapering, straight leaves are usually no more than 1.2 mm long. The nerve is absent, or very short and double. This moss sometimes has gemmae or rhizoids growing from the leaf tip. *P. latebricola* does not much resemble other species of this genus in the field, and should be confirmed microscopically until its appearance is well-known. Capsules are rare.

Similar species *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* (p. 788) is less slender and the leaf tip tapers less gradually. *Isopterygiopsis pulchella* (p. 787) is found on slightly base-rich rock faces. *P. latebricola* is unlikely to be confused with other species of *Plagiothecium*.

Habitat On decaying vegetable matter, including rotting stumps, fern bases and sedge (*Carex*) tussocks in damp habitats, occasionally on living trunks in woodland.