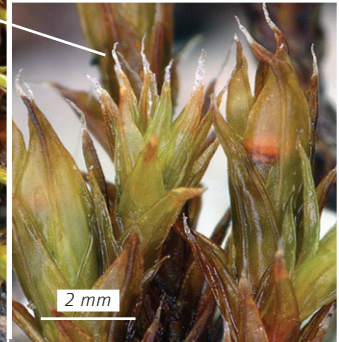
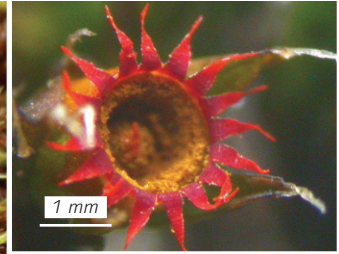
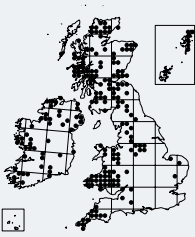


Schistidium apocarpum

Sessile Grimmia

Key 203



Identification This is the second commonest *Schistidium* in lowland Britain and becomes increasingly frequent in humid parts of the north and west. Its typical form grows in loose cushions or patches of sparsely branched shoots, 0.5–5 cm long, with curved leaves (2.25–3.5 mm long) that have a very short hair point, and rather short capsules. Upland forms often have straighter leaves and longer hair points, thus mimicking various other *Schistidium* species, so care and microscopical checking are needed.

Similar species Confusion is likely with the aquatic *S. rivulare* group (p. 507) as *S. apocarpum* often grows by rivers. The three aquatic species have shorter capsules and no hair points, as well as their own individual characters. *S. crassipilum* (p. 511) does not have curved leaves and usually has prominent hair points, so typical forms of *S. apocarpum* look quite different. Upland forms will need careful checking, but the sometimes wavy hair point of *S. apocarpum* is a character that *S. crassipilum* does not show. Upland plants with orange tones can look very similar to *S. strictum* (p. 515), although they have wider leaves, and straggly plants may look like the much rarer *S. papillosum* (Smith, p. 410) or *S. trichodon* (p. 513).

Habitat *S. apocarpum* is absent from the driest parts of lowland Britain, but a little further north and west it is typically found on shaded masonry, on flat gravestones or in church gutters. It is also frequently encountered on rocks and bridge piles by rivers. In the uplands it favours base-rich, siliceous rocks.