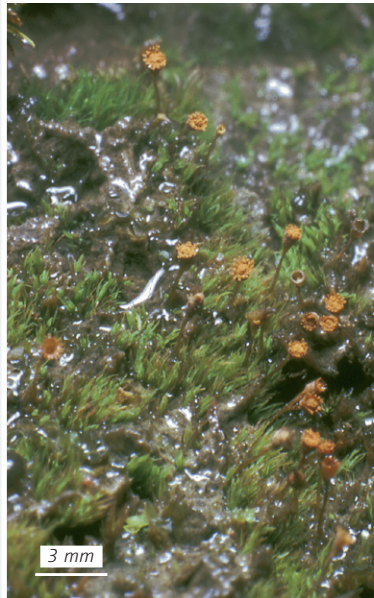
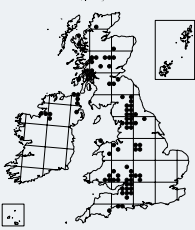


Seligeria pusilla

Dwarf Rock-bristle



Identification A minute (shoots 2–3 mm tall) species growing in thin, bristly mats. Leaves are spearhead-shaped, sharply pointed, with leaves around the base of the seta significantly longer (about 2 mm long) and thinner than the leaves below (up to about 1 mm long). Capsules are common, egg-shaped and held clear of the leaves on a short, straight seta about 2–3 mm long. The capsule has a peristome.

Similar species *S. calycina* (p. 547) and *S. calcarea* (p. 548) nearly always grow on chalk. *S. calycina* has a relatively longer capsule, while *S. calcarea* has shorter, blunter leaves. The rarer *S. acutifolia* (Smith, p. 483) often grows with *S. pusilla* and looks similar, but has a shorter (about 1–1.5 mm long) seta, and leaves surrounding the base of the seta often reach the base of the capsule. *S. diversifolia* (Smith, p. 484) is a very rare species with leaves on non-fertile shoots much longer than those on fertile shoots. *S. brevifolia* (Smith, p. 483) is a very rare, montane species, with short, rather blunt leaves and a very wide-mouthed capsule that is egg-shaped, but widest above the middle. *Brachydontium trichodes* (p. 552) has capsules with longitudinal ridges, grows on sandstone, siliceous or igneous rocks, and is brownish, rather than vivid green.

Habitat Grows on shaded limestone, basalt and calcareous sandstone, on cliffs, boulders and in crevices, but rarely on chalk.