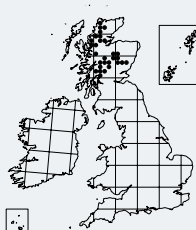


Herzogiella striatella

Muhlenbeck's Feather-moss



Identification This species forms straggling patches of slender, glossy green or yellowish-green shoots up to 5 cm long. Horizontal stems produce ascending branches, more or less flattened in one plane, with leaves about 1.5 mm long. The spreading leaves have a long, tapering, upturned tip, and they often lean to one side of the shoot. The nerve is short and double, but usually well-developed. Capsules are common, and form in summer. They are 2 mm long, inclined, curved and taper into the seta. Capsules are smooth when young, but become irregularly (although distinctly) furrowed as they age. The lid is bluntly conical.

Similar species *H. seligeri* (p. 790) is a larger moss of lowland woods in southern Britain. The smaller and usually darker *Sematophyllum demissum* (p. 792) lacks the longly tapering leaves of *H. striatella*, and also has capsules with a long beak. Other similar, small pleurocarps (e.g. *Brachythecium* species, pp. 741–752) differ in having a nerve which extends further towards the leaf tip. Like *H. striatella*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* (p. 788) may grow in scree beds, but its leaves taper less.

Habitat *H. striatella* grows on peaty soil in crevices amongst boulders in montane districts, usually, but not invariably at high altitudes. At lower altitudes it grows by the base of trees in woodlands. It is scarce.