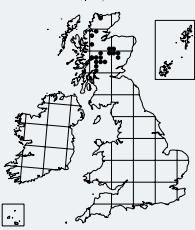


*Kiaeria glacialis*

Snow Fork-moss



**Identification** A handsome moss, forming yellow-green cushions or patches to 12 cm deep. The leaves are up to 8 mm long, erect and wavy, often point in one direction at the tip when moist, and are little altered when dry. The narrowly spearhead-shaped leaves taper gradually to a long tip which may be slightly toothed, and the cells in the basal corners form a distinct, brown group. Capsules are not common and are cylindrical, curved, swollen at the base (see drawing on p. 373), and borne on a long seta.

**Similar species** Easily confused with *Dicranum fuscescens* (p. 382) or montane forms of *D. scoparium* (p. 378) which may have untoothed leaves that lack ridges of tissue on the back of the nerve. The rather erect leaves with tips turned in one direction give *K. glacialis* a certain look, but some experience is probably required before confident field identification is possible. It is also similar to *K. starkei* (p. 375), but is normally much bigger.

**Habitat** Grows on damp mineral soil, often amongst boulders or on broad crag ledges, and by meltwater channels where snow lies late in the year, often with least willow (*Salix herbacea*).