

Anomodon attenuatus

Slender Tail-moss

Identification

A. attenuatus resembles a slender version of *A. viticulosus*, with erect, curved, dull, green or yellowish-green branches arising from creeping primary stems, and forming tufted mats up to 5 cm long. As in *A. viticulosus*, the leaves spread away from the stem when moist, become appressed when dry, have decurrent bases, and a nerve that ends below the blunt tip. However, the leaves of *A. attenuatus* are only 1–2 mm long. Capsules have not been seen in Britain.

Similar species

A. attenuatus is intermediate in appearance between *A. viticulosus* (q.v.) and *A. longifolius* (q.v.). *A. viticulosus* is very much commoner, and a bigger plant with shoots 2–8 cm long and leaves 2–3 mm long. The rare *A. longifolius* has more tapering leaf tips.

Habitat

This very rare moss grows on sheltered, base-rich rocks at the base of trees at a single British site. It favours calcareous substrates, but is not restricted to them, having also been found on logs and rotting tree trunks. Outside Britain, it grows on bark at the base of trees, on stumps and rotting logs, as well as rock, and sometimes on soil.