

# *Campylium protensum*

(syn. *C. stellatum* var. *protensum*)

Dull Starry Feather-moss

- Identification** This species is very close to *C. stellatum*. It has prostrate rather than erect shoots, and these tend to be more regularly pinnate. It is generally smaller, the stem leaves mostly being in the range 1–2 mm long. The leaf acumen occupies a greater proportion of the leaf (about two-thirds to three-quarters).
- Similar species** Readily confused with *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* (q.v.) (see under *Campylium stellatum* for the differences). It could also be confused with *Campylophyllum calcareum* (q.v.). However, the latter is more slender, with stem leaves rarely exceeding 1 mm long, and it occurs in dry habitats. Microscopic examination is necessary to confirm the more compact (not inflated) alar cells and denticulate leaf bases of *Campylophyllum calcareum*.
- Habitat** *C. protensum* occurs in similar habitats to *C. stellatum*, including base-rich flushes and seepages, but more often it occurs in drier places, in turf, on moist rocks and stones and on rock ledges.