

# *Campylophyllum calcareum*

(syn. *Campylium calcareum*)

Chalk Feather-moss



## Identification

This is a slender moss with prostrate shoots that are densely but irregularly branched. The most distinctive character is in the leaves, which are rather crowded, and spreading to squarrose; they taper from a broad somewhat cordate base to a very long slender acumen which occupies half the leaf length or more. The individual shoots are commonly no more than 1 cm long, but they form dense green or yellowish-green patches. The stem leaves are up to about 1 mm long.

## Similar species

Few other slender mosses have such distinctly spreading or squarrose leaves. *C. halleri* (q.v.) has squarrose-recurved leaves, and the acumen occupies only about half the leaf length or less, but being a mountain plant, it is unlikely to be confused with *C. calcareum*. *Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus* (q.v.) has similar spreading leaves, but they are not so distinctly squarrose, it tends to form less dense patches, and it usually grows in turf and open habitats. The leaves have a single nerve, but this may be difficult to observe in the field. *Conardia compacta* (q.v.) is also very similar, but the leaves are not so suddenly narrowed above the base and are less constantly spreading-squarrose, often erect-spreading or curved.

## Habitat

An uncommon moss of lowland calcareous habitats, usually occurring on stones and about tree roots, but also on compacted soil, in woodland and other sheltered or shaded places.