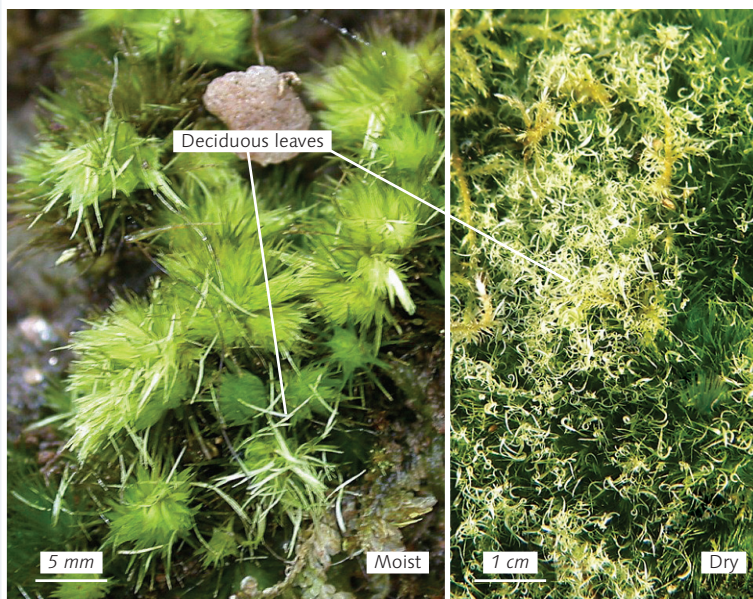
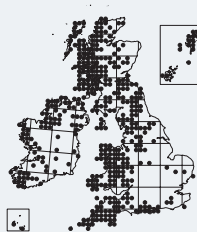


Campylopus fragilis

Brittle Swan-neck Moss

Key 149



Identification Usually forming dense, yellow-green or whitish-green tufts or patches to 7 cm tall, but usually much less. The leaves are 3–6 mm long, stiff, straight and erect when moist, and only a little altered and somewhat wavy when dry. Each leaf widens above the base and then narrows abruptly before tapering to a fine tip. The nerve is very wide in the leaf base, up to 60% of the width. The basal cells are colourless and almost white. Tiny, deciduous leaves and shootlets are often abundant at the shoot tip, and these with the almost white leaf base give a characteristically fuzzy centre to each shoot when viewed from above.

Similar species When typical, this species is easily identified and confusion with other mosses is unlikely, but at other times *C. fragilis* could readily be confused with other *Campylopus* species (pp. 391–392, 394–402) and *Dicranum* species (pp. 377–387). Individual shoots of *C. fragilis* tend to be thicker than those of *C. pyriformis* (p. 394).

Habitat Most sites are on well-drained, grassy or heathy slopes, but it may also occur on crag ledges, in maritime heath and in fen carr. It is more tolerant of base-rich conditions than most other *Campylopus* species and has been recorded from limestone grassland, shell sand and calcareous sandstone rock faces.