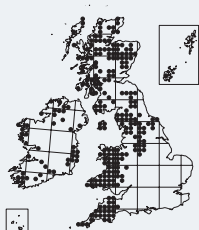


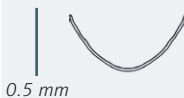
Fontinalis squamosa

Alpine Water-moss

Key 325



Rounded leaf in cross-section



Identification Typically, *F. squamosa* is more slender than *F. antipyretica*, with shoots 1–2 mm wide. Its leaves are 2–4.5 mm long, closely spaced, overlapping and are rounded rather than keeled along the midline, making the shoots cylindrical rather than 3-sided. It is easier to see that there is no nerve in *F. squamosa* than in *F. antipyretica*.

Similar species This is not likely to be confused with other species. In acidic, running waters *F. antipyretica* (p. 670) is often represented by slender variants which superficially resemble *F. squamosa*, but nevertheless have keeled rather than rounded backs to the leaves.

Habitat *F. squamosa* grows in rapidly flowing, acidic streams and rivers, attached to rocks or tree roots. Its habitat overlaps with that of *F. antipyretica*, and the two species sometimes grow together. However, *F. squamosa* may be the only *Fontinalis* species in the most nutrient-poor and acidic sites.