

## Species presentation

### *Sphagnum venustum* Flatberg

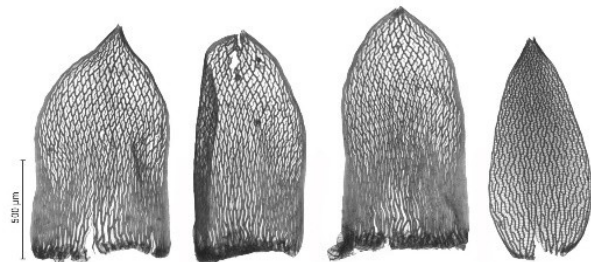
This is a very small species that in Europe has been found only in Norway (**CR** on the national Red List). It was discovered here in 2011, three years after it was described from eastern Canada. In Norway, it is the rarest of the *Sphagnum*, although as it is very small it can easily be overlooked.

*Sphagnum venustum* is brown-red to salmon-pink subgenus *Acutifolia*-species that usually grows dispersed among other species. It has a flat, starlike capitulum with mostly straight branches and a clearly visible apical bud. The fascicles have 2 spreading branches and usually 1 thinner, pendant branch.

The branch leaves can be somewhat arranged in five-ranked rows. They often have a tip that looks cut off and the tip often has small teeth. The stem leaves vary in shape, are thin and often rip.



*Sphagnum venustum*, at the top together with *S. papillosum* and *S. rubellum*, at Henningvatnet. Photo Fia Bengtsson.



Stem leaves and a branch leaf. Photo Kjell Ivar Flatberg.