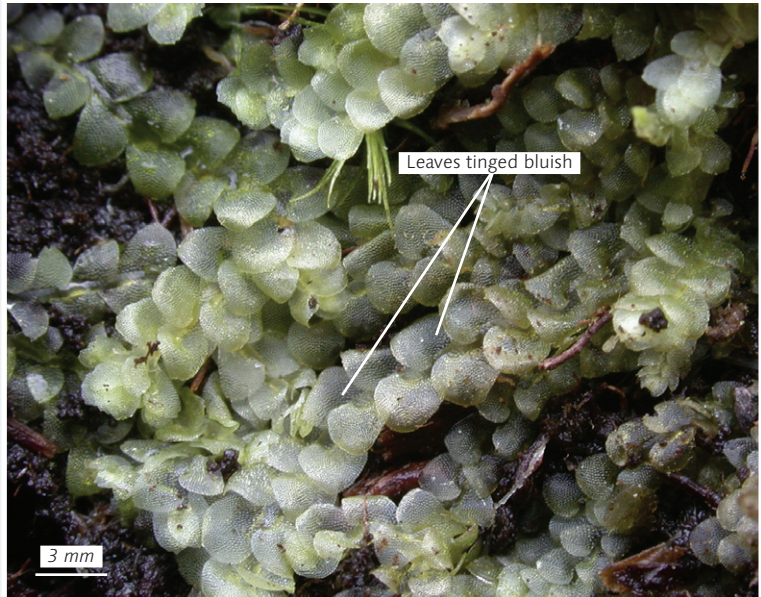
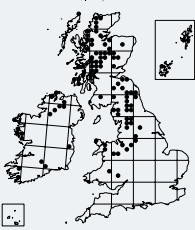


Calypogeia azurea

Blue Pouchwort

Key 67



Identification The characteristic blue colour of *C. azurea* is visible in the field, although it is worth keeping a shoot to admire its blue oil bodies under a microscope. Other than its blueness, it looks similar to other, commoner *Calypogeia* species, with blunt leaves that sometimes end with a notch. Shoots are 1.5–3.5 mm wide, and leaves are up to about 2 mm wide and long.

Similar species *C. muelleriana* (p. 86) can look rather blue-grey in the field, but its oil bodies never have the intense blue colour of *C. azurea* and it almost never has notched leaf tips. *C. fissa* (p. 85) has notched leaf tips, and is never blue.

Habitat *C. azurea* is widespread and grows in rather diverse habitats, but is quite rarely encountered and is always a good species to find. It avoids calcareous substrates, and grows in similar places in upland districts to *C. fissa* and *C. muelleriana*, including peaty and sandy banks by tracks, on rocky hillsides, or on heaths, moorland or blanket bog.