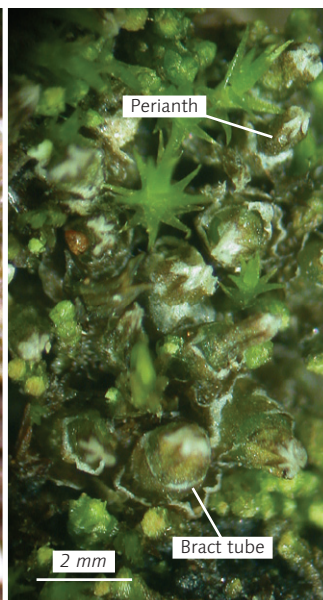
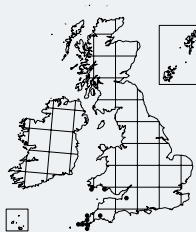


Cephaloziella calyculata

Entire Threadwort



Identification Only two species of threadwort have an untoothed bract tube around the base of the perianth: *C. calyculata* and *C. integerrima*. This is clearly visible with a hand lens, so learning what it looks like might help people find new colonies (often, *Cephaloziella* is considered too daunting to consider looking out for scarce species). *C. calyculata* forms shoots less than 0.5 mm wide, with leaves up to 0.3 mm long. It is monoicous, pale green or yellowish-green, and grows as small, creeping patches. Two colonies were spotted in Pembrokeshire because their gemmae were strikingly pale and looked like candyfloss. With a microscope, the gemmae can be seen to be angular.

Similar species *C. integerrima* (Paton, p. 155) has a shallowly lobed bract tube (unlobed in *C. calyculata*), and is sometimes red, whereas *C. calyculata* is always green. It has been recorded in the past on heathland in south-east England, but the only recent records come from mineral-rich mine spoil in Cornwall and in Ireland. No other *Cephaloziella* has an unlobed bract tube. *Lophozia excisa* (p. 120) is superficially similar to *C. calyculata*, but has red gemmae and lacks a bract tube.

Habitat Two colonies have recently been found in Pembrokeshire on damp soil in heathland surrounded by limestone grassland, where *Lophozia excisa* and *Archidium alternifolium* were associates. Its sites in Glamorgan and Somerset are on soil in limestone grasslands. The remaining localities are in Cornwall, on coastal heathland, copper mine spoil and the banks of coastal creeks.