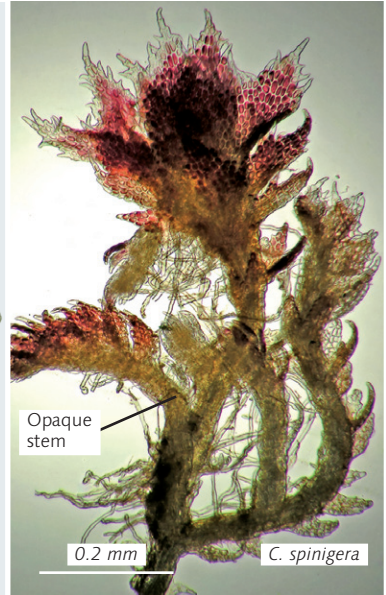
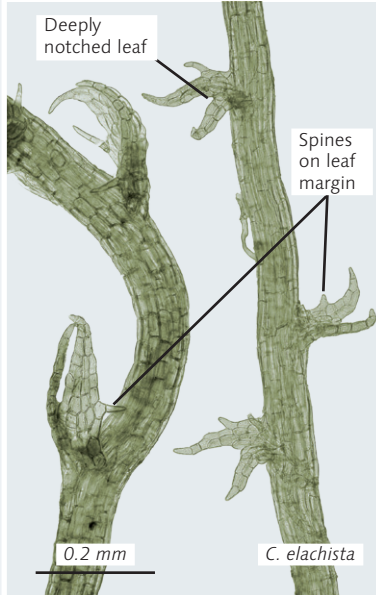
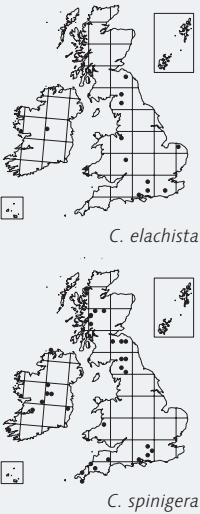


Cephaloziella elachista/spinigera

Spurred/Spiny Threadwort



Identification

These two very scarce threadworts have deeply bilobed leaves (notched to three-quarters of total leaf length), usually with a few long spines on the margins. A $\times 20$ hand lens will reveal leaves that are too deeply divided for other *Cephaloziella* species (notched to half leaf length), prompting collection for identification with a microscope. The purple/red colour typical of *C. spinigera* is another distinctive pointer. Both species are monoicous, with male and female branches. Shoots are less than 0.5 mm wide, with leaves less than 0.25 mm long.

Similar species

The commonest threadwort on bogs is *C. hampeana* (p. 105), which very rarely has leaves so deeply bilobed, and almost never has marginal spines. *Cephaloziella bicuspidata* (p. 92) has deeply divided leaves and long leaf lobes, but never has marginal spines or teeth, and always has a translucent stem with an opaque centre.

Habitat

Both species are almost entirely restricted to bogs, where they grow through *Sphagnum* or *Leucobryum glaucum*, often with a range of other liverworts. *C. spinigera* has been collected once on a damp peaty bank, whilst *C. elachista* is rare on purple moor-grass (*Molinia*) tussocks in wet heath, but both are atypical habitats.