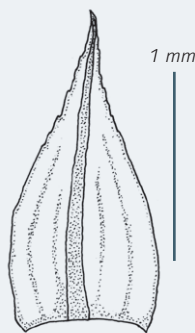
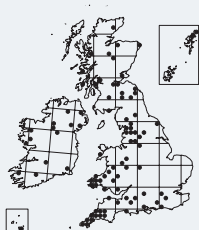


Philonotis caespitosa

Tufted Apple-moss



Identification *P. caespitosa* forms slender, light green shoots up to 5 cm tall. Its leaves are 0.5–1.7 mm long, and the tips of the shoots often curve to point in one direction. The lower part of the stems is covered by brown rhizoids. Capsules are very rare in Britain.

Similar species Stunted or young shoots of *P. fontana* (p. 636) can look very like *P. caespitosa*. *P. caespitosa* is usually not quite so blue-green as *P. fontana*, but it is best to check microscopic features for confirmation of identification. *P. fontana* is typically taller and less slender, has shoots which are not curved at the tip, and leaves with corrugated surfaces and recurved margins. *P. marchica* (Smith, p. 649) is only known in Britain from the Isle of Wight. It tends to have narrow, curved leaves with plane margins, but can only be identified microscopically. The leaves of *Conostomum tetragonum* (p. 632) are arranged in 5 ranks.

Habitat Moist or wet soil and rocks, usually where the ground is flushed or flooded – by springs, streams, tracks, ditches, lakes and reservoirs, in marshes, boggy fields and quarries. *P. caespitosa* sometimes also grows on dripping rocks.