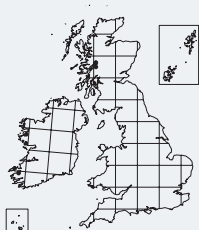


Philonotis cernua

Bartramidula cernua, *B. wilsonii*

Swan-necked Apple-moss



0.5 mm



Identification

P. cernua is a very small, pale green moss, 2–5 mm tall, occurring in patches or as scattered shoots. The leaves are tiny (less than 1 mm long). Inclined or pendulous, spherical capsules are commonly produced in autumn. They are tinged a delicate pink, a colour which fades with long drying (as in the photographs above), and taper slightly into the long, curved or irregularly wavy seta.

Similar species

P. cernua could not be confused with any other moss when its capsules are present, but non-fertile plants might be overlooked as young shoots of another *Philonotis* species. The leaves of *Conostomum tetragonum* (p. 632) are arranged in 5 ranks.

Habitat

A very rare (or overlooked) species of damp, burnt, bare peat in the mountains, or unstable mineral soil amongst loose scree.