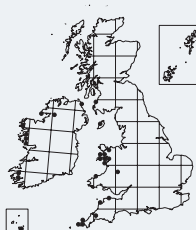


Philonotis rigida

Rigid Apple-moss



Identification Shoots form dense, brownish-green tufts up to about 1 cm tall, with numerous long rhizoids on the stems. These short stems have longer branches arising from them, with straight, narrow leaves (2 mm long) held rigidly erect when moist. The nerve is prominent. Spherical capsules, furrowed when mature, are about 2 mm long, and often produced in spring. The setae are up to 2 cm tall.

Similar species Other members of the genus lack the rigid habit of *P. rigida*. Young *Bartramia pomiformis* (p. 630) has more strongly toothed leaves, but has to be checked microscopically. The leaves of *Conostomum tetragonum* (p. 632) are arranged in 5 ranks.

Habitat A moss of wet cliffs and river banks, often in coastal districts, where it may grow on soil and in rock crevices.