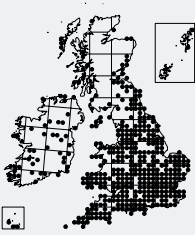


Physcomitrium pyriforme

Common Bladder-moss



Identification This is a relatively large (shoots up to 5 mm tall), dingy green moss that grows as scattered shoots or loose tufts. The leaves are 3–4 mm long, spreading, with large, lax cells, easily visible with a 10 hand lens. Capsules are frequent, erect on a long (5–15 mm) seta, and pear-shaped. The lid is short, beaked or abruptly pointed, and the calyptra is usually symmetrical (but can sometimes split asymmetrically).

Similar species The rarer *Entosthodon fascicularis* (p. 564), which tends to occur in drier sites, has a low lid with no point and an asymmetrical calyptra. The two species cannot reliably be distinguished without capsules. *Funaria hygrometrica* (p. 561) has capsules on a long, contorted seta. Species of *Bryum* (pp. 581–599), *Pohlia* (pp. 603–611) and related genera have much smaller leaf cells.

Habitat Arable fields and other recently disturbed soil. It seems to be particularly fond of clods of soil in cattle-poached pastures, especially next to streams.