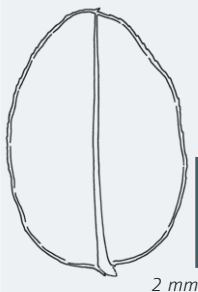
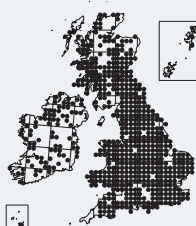


Plagiomnium rostratum

Long-beaked Thyme-moss

Key 167



Identification This species has creeping, non-fertile stems up to about 5 cm long, and leaves 5–7 mm long which do not run down onto the stem. With a 20 hand lens it is possible to see that the cells are little longer than wide, and are not in clear diagonal rows. Capsules are frequently produced, and the lid is beaked. Capsules frequently form in spring, and are about 4 mm long.

Similar species *P. affine* (p. 621) differs in having leaf cells that are longer than wide and arranged in diagonal rows (parallel to the long axis of the cells). *P. cuspidatum* (p. 619) has more acutely pointed leaves which are toothed only in the upper half. *P. medium* (Smith, p. 631) and *P. elatum* (p. 620) have a leaf base that broadly runs down onto the stem. In *P. ellipticum* (p. 622) the non-fertile stems are typically erect, and the cells are in diagonal rows. All these species have a conical lid to the capsules, though capsules are very rare in some species.

Habitat In damp, calcareous habitats, on soil and over rocks, often found on intermittently inundated rocks and banks beside rivers.

