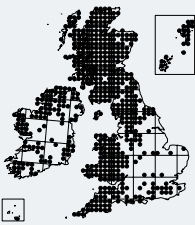


*Pogonatum urnigerum**Polytrichum urnigerum*

Urn Haircap

Key 93



Identification *P. urnigerum* is a common, glaucous-green moss of gravelly ground in the uplands. It forms rather loose patches or grows as scattered shoots, each about 3 cm tall. The narrowly triangular, blue-green leaves are up to 1 cm long, and are held at an angle to the stem or spreading when moist, but are erect when dry. The margins have coarse, multicellular, sharply pointed teeth. The upper surface is densely covered with 30–50 longitudinally orientated plates of cells. Shortly cylindrical, erect or inclined capsules are frequently formed from autumn onwards, and borne on a seta up to about 3 cm tall.

Similar species The glaucous colour of *P. urnigerum* is unique among its relatives. Furthermore, it is a shorter, smaller plant, with relatively shorter, broader leaves than *Polytrichum* (pp. 322–326) or *Polytrichastrum* (pp. 318–321) species. *P. aloides* and *P. nanum* (p. 316) differ in their smaller size and persistent protonema.

Habitat Always on acidic mineral soils and most frequent in upland areas on gravelly tracks, quarries and disturbed ground. In the lowlands, *P. urnigerum* usually grows in greatly disturbed man-made habitats. It sometimes favours burnt ground.