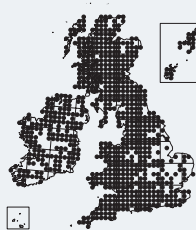


Pohlia wahlenbergii

Pale glaucous Thread-moss

Key 255

**Identification**

The shoots of this moss are distinctively pale glaucous green or almost white, with red stems, and vary in size, typical shoots being 1–3 cm tall. Leaves are approximately 2 mm long. Pear-shaped, pendulous capsules form rarely in summer. *P. wahlenbergii* var. *glacialis* may grow up to as much as 15 cm tall. *P. wahlenbergii* var. *calcarea* is smaller (up to 1.5 cm tall), with narrower (0.5 mm wide) leaves.

Similar species

Small plants may resemble *P. melanodon* (p. 610), but although that moss is pale, it is a duller hue and never glaucous. *P. cruda* (p. 603) may also resemble *P. wahlenbergii* in its pale green leaves, but is glossy, which *P. wahlenbergii* never is. Droplets of dew form more frequently on *P. wahlenbergii* than other members of the genus; *Philonotis fontana* (p. 636) also tends to attract dew, but its leaves have folds, and are not translucent. *Mielichhoferia* species (p. 601) are also pale; *M. mielichhoferiana* (Smith, p. 591) most resembles *Pohlia* species, but its leaves are less than 1 mm long and its shoots are less than 1 mm wide.

Habitat

P. wahlenbergii is a moss of moist places on both low and high ground. On lower ground it prefers roadsides, tracksides, sand pits, soil on the sides of ditches, marshes, waste ground, on and beside wet rocks in ravines, and damp woodland rides. Var. *glacialis* favours springs and flushes in the mountains. Var. *calcarea* is a very rare moss of calcareous ground.