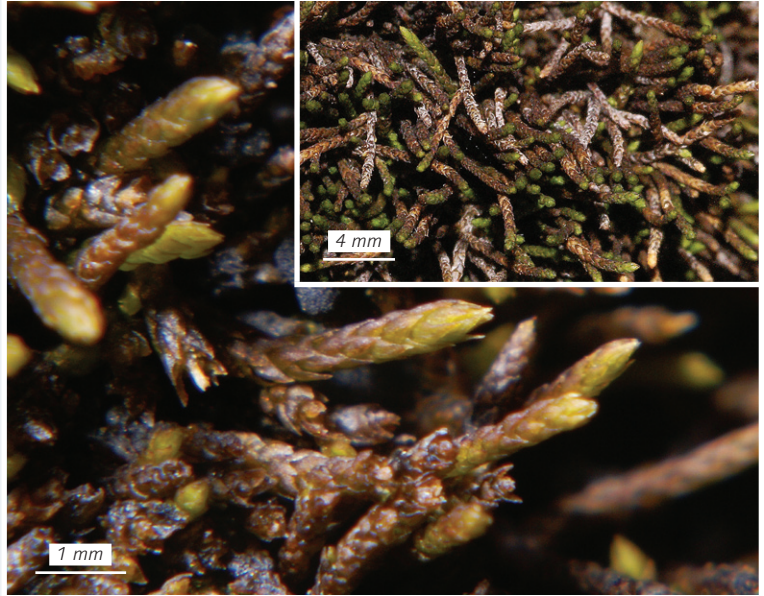
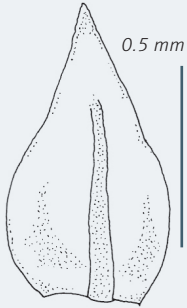
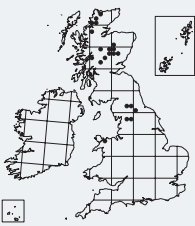


*Pseudoleskeella catenulata**Pseudoleskiella catenulata*, *Pseudoleskea catenulata*

Chained Leskea

**Identification**

The short, very slender, smoothly cylindrical shoots of *P. catenulata* form dark or olive-green, brownish or yellowish mats. Minute (about 0.6 mm long), slightly concave leaves spread away from the stem when moist, and clasp it when dry. The nerve is faint and ceases in mid-leaf. Narrowly oblong, curved, erect or inclined capsules appear in summer, but are not known in Britain.

Similar species

Pseudoleskea patens (p. 691) is larger, forms looser mats, and is usually deep green or reddish-brown, and when moist its leaves spread further away from the stem than those of *P. catenulata*. The rare *P. rupestris* (Smith, p. 739) is even smaller than *P. catenulata*, forming green to reddish patches. Its leaves have a long, wavy tip, and the plant looks more like *Lescuraea saxicola* (Smith, p. 741) than *P. catenulata*. *P. rupestris* grows on exposed, calcareous rocks in the mountains. The very rare *P. nervosa* (Smith, p. 739) forms olive-green to almost black patches, and differs in producing branchlets crowded amongst the axils of the upper leaves. These branchlets readily detach from the rest of the plant. *P. nervosa* is known from only one area of exposed calcareous rock in the Scottish Highlands. *Leskea polycarpa* (p. 689) grows mainly on bark in the flood zone of lowland watercourses.

Habitat

P. catenulata grows on unshaded, exposed, calcareous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks in the mountains, and seems to avoid competition with other plants.