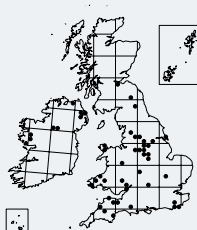


*Weissia rostellata*

Beaked Beardless-moss



**Identification** The unusual, shortly cylindrical capsules on a short seta, half hidden among long leaves that arise from beside the base of the sporophyte give this *Weissia* a distinctive appearance. The capsules do not shed their lid, and partly broken-down examples can often be found *in situ* with a hand lens. *W. rostellata* forms low (5 mm tall), loosely tufted patches of yellow-green plants. Leaves are 1.5–2.5 mm long.

**Similar species** Plants of *W. squarrosa* (p. 424) with short setae can look very similar to *W. rostellata*, so a careful search should be made for ripe capsules with a lid that has been shed, or for the characteristic bare setae of *W. squarrosa*.

**Habitat** Most recent records of *W. rostellata* are from reservoir margins or the edges of ponds. This species fruits in the autumn so there are often ripe capsules by the time that winter rains start to raise water levels. It definitely favours damp habitats: other records come from low-lying pasture, cereal fields near streams and clayey woodland rides.