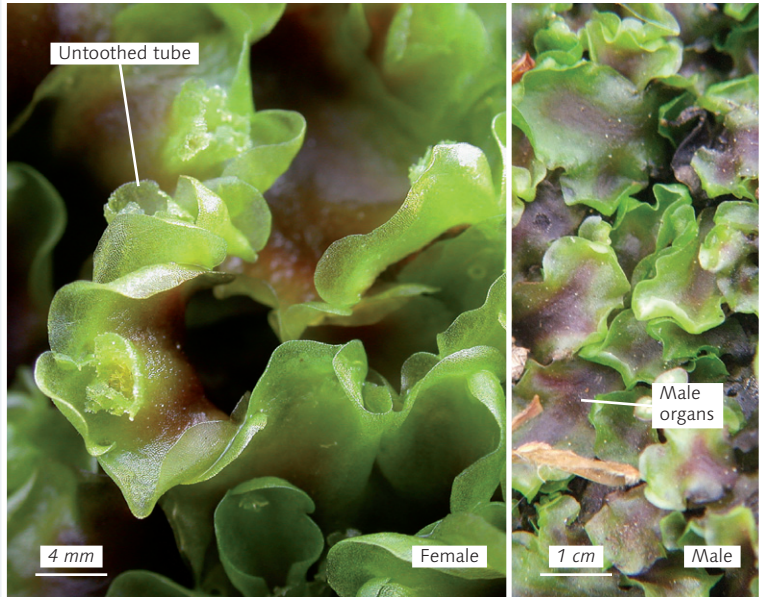
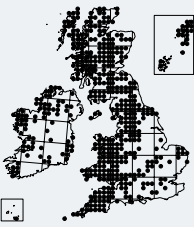


*Pellia neesiana*

Nees' Pellia

Key 22



**Identification** *P. neesiana* is vegetatively very similar to *P. epiphylla* with thalli about 1 cm wide, although it has a greater tendency to develop reddish or purple tints and has a sharp, aromatic smell. It is dioicous, with separate male and female individuals. Females develop a short, vertical tube of tissue around the sex organ. This tube is not closely toothed at its mouth.

**Similar species** Unlike *P. epiphylla* (p. 235), colonies of *P. neesiana* consist of separate male and female plants. Sometimes only thalli of a single sex are found; if they are female, the shape of the tube around the sexual organ will distinguish *P. neesiana* from *P. epiphylla*. Male thalli are more tricky as they may be *P. epiphylla* with the female organs not yet developed, but it is normally safe to accept them as *P. neesiana* if *P. epiphylla* in the same area is demonstrably monoicous or if one can detect the aromatic smell of *P. neesiana*. *P. endiviifolia* (p. 237) can often be identified by its characteristic autumnal branching; if these branches are absent, it can also be distinguished by the closely toothed mouth of the tube surrounding the female organ. Some microscopic characters can also be used to distinguish *P. neesiana* from *P. endiviifolia*.

**Habitat** *P. neesiana* grows on acidic ground in ditches, wet grassland, marshes, wet woodland and on rocky banks and streamsides; it is particularly frequent in flushes. It sometimes grows on gravelly forest tracks. It is less frequent in most areas than *P. epiphylla*, with which it often grows, but is rather under-recorded.