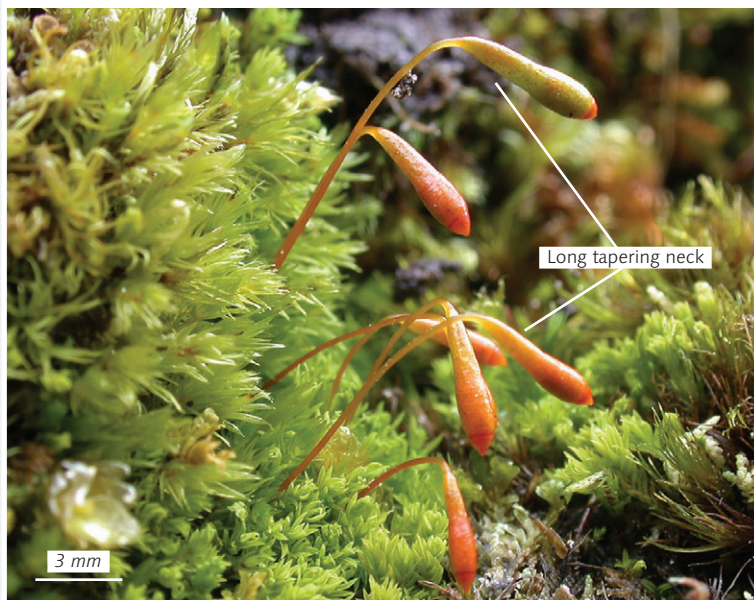
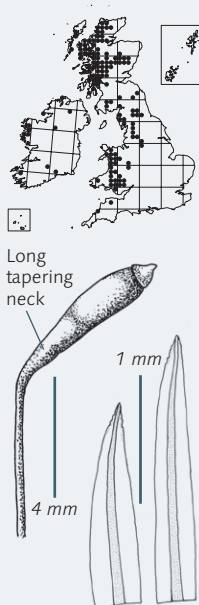


Pohlia elongata

Long-fruited Thread-moss



Identification

Shoots are 0.5–5 cm tall, dull or pale green. Lower leaves are 2 mm long and broadly spearhead-shaped. Upper leaves are narrow and grow up to 4 mm long. They are held more or less erect, and alter little when dry. The prominent nerve ends in or just below the tip. The capsules are the most distinctive feature of *P. elongata*, and form in summer and autumn. They are typically 4–6 mm long, narrowly pear-shaped or spindle-shaped and taper at both ends, with the neck forming up to half of this length, held inclined or horizontal or drooping, on a seta 1.5–3 cm tall.

Similar species

P. nutans (p. 605) has wider leaves relative to their length, and its capsules are shorter (3 mm long). The leaves of *P. cruda* (p. 603) are glossy and pale green.

Habitat

P. elongata grows in small quantity on shallow, shaded, often peaty soil among boulders, in shaded clefts of rock, and on ledges and banks. It avoids base-rich or calcareous places.