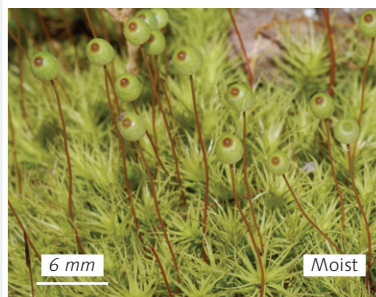
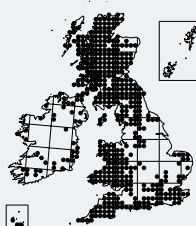


Bartramia pomiformis

Common Apple-moss

Key 133



Identification This species of *Bartramia* forms pale glaucous green cushions and tufts 0.5 to several centimetres tall. The leaves are 4–6 mm long, narrowly spearhead-shaped and sharply pointed, sticking out like spikes from the stem when moist, but curled when dry. Spherical, asymmetrical capsules are 2 mm long, and become ridged and furrowed with age. They are borne on a seta 2 cm long.

Similar species *B. pomiformis* is the commonest and most widespread species of *Bartramia*. It lacks the distinctive, colourless leaf base of *B. ithyphylla* (p. 631), and the large size (up to 15 cm tall), curled leaves and hidden capsules of *B. halleriana* (p. 629). *Plagiopus oederianus* (p. 628) is a darker, shinier green, and a strict calcicole. *B. stricta* (Smith, p. 645) is similar, but the leaves are straight, appressed and overlapping when dry, and the capsules are symmetrical. It is very rare in mainland Britain, being confined to a single site in mid-Wales, but is more common in the Channel Islands.

Habitat Usually on acidic or mildly base-rich rock, especially on cliffs and crags. Also found on hedge banks, earth banks and walls.