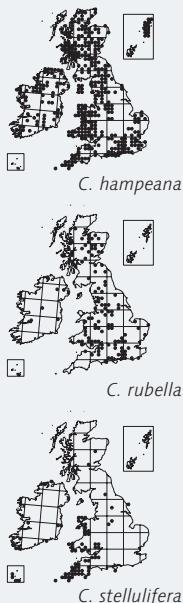


Cephaloziella hampeana/rubella/stellulifera

Hampe's/Red/Heath Threadwort

Key 56



Identification

Confident field identification of *Cephaloziella* is often impossible, but careful collection of fertile plants (look for perianths) will aid identification under a microscope. Most threadworts encountered are either *C. divaricata* or one of the trio of *C. hampeana*, *C. rubella* and *C. stellulifera*. Sometimes it can be clear through a hand lens that plants of *C. hampeana* growing through living *Sphagnum* have male and female branches connected; locating swollen male bracts under female inflorescences in *C. rubella* and *C. stellulifera* is more difficult. Shoots of these species are typically less than 0.5 mm wide, and leaves are up to 0.3 mm long. Generally, *C. stellulifera* is slightly larger than *C. rubella* and its bracts and lobes often bend back from the stem. Gemmae are frequent in all three species.

Similar species

C. divaricata (p. 106) is dioicous, although male and female plants sometimes grow intermixed. In *C. divaricata* the tips of the 2 leaf lobes are distinctively pinched together. Slender plants of *Cephalozia bicuspidata* (p. 92) and the much scarcer *Cephalozia leucantha* (Paton p. 108) are frequently confused with *Cephaloziella*, but have translucent stems with an opaque centre (visible with a hand lens), whereas the stems of *Cephaloziella* are entirely opaque. In addition, *Cephalozia bicuspidata* has longer, more slender leaf lobes. The rare *C. baumgartneri* (Paton, p. 145) is unusual for this genus in growing on calcareous substrates. It is never reddish or purplish, and has wider, less deeply divided leaf lobes. It grows on calcareous rock and soil in southern England.

Habitat

All three species grow in a wide range of damp, acidic or neutral habitats. Substrates include soil, peat, *Sphagnum*, rotting logs and mine spoil. Green plants on living *Sphagnum* are likely to be *C. hampeana*, but plants from other habitats could be any of the three. *C. rubella* is thought to be the most frequent threadwort on rotting logs.