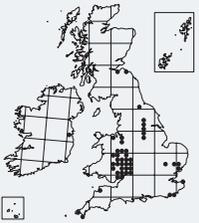
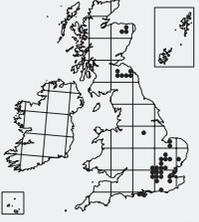


*Hennediella stanfordensis/macrophylla**Hyophila stanfordensis/Tortula brevis*

Stanford Screw-moss/Short Pottia

*H. stanfordensis**H. macrophylla**H. stanfordensis**H. macrophylla*

Identification

Bright green, open patches or scattered plants a few millimetres tall, with leaves 2–3 mm long. The upper leaves tend to form a rosette, are broadest in the upper half of the leaf, and have a short, abrupt point. The leaf margins have a pale border of elongated cells, and near the tip have teeth which are usually visible with a hand lens. The leaf tip of *H. macrophylla* tends to narrow more abruptly than that of *H. stanfordensis*. *H. stanfordensis* very rarely produces capsules, but *H. macrophylla* often does in spring. They are 2 mm long, and inclined.

Similar species

Can be confused with *Tortula truncata* (p. 482) which is a common plant of disturbed soil. The leaves of *T. truncata* are not as broad, are not such a bright green and are not as stiff. *H. macrophylla* could be mistaken for *Barbula unguiculata* (p. 455) because both have a shortly but prominently excurrent nerve, but the leaves of *B. unguiculata* are narrower relative to their length. A number of other small mosses, particularly *Tortula* species (pp. 475–484), can be superficially similar, but lack teeth on the leaf margins. *Syntrichia amplexa* (*Tortula amplexa*) (Smith, p. 388) has leaves that are longer relative to their width, no pale border of elongated cells and no teeth near the leaf tip.

Habitat

These plants usually grow on bare, compacted soil in shaded areas, particularly close to water. Footpaths and the eroded banks of rivers are particularly favoured, but there are also records from arable fields. They spread rapidly along rivers, and may colonize quite extensive areas.