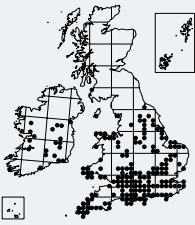


*Microbryum rectum**Pottia recta*

Upright Pottia

Key 261



**Identification** A very small (shoots less than 1 mm tall), ephemeral moss occurring as scattered plants or in loose patches. Leaves are about 1 mm long, spearhead-shaped, acute, and have recurved margins. The nerve protrudes as a small point beyond the tip of the leaf blade, and the seta is 0.6–1 mm long. The capsule is characteristically spherical and either does not open at the lid or has a semi-deciduous lid with a short, abrupt point. The reddish-brown capsules are frequent from September until April.

**Similar species** *Pottia starkeana* and *P. davalliana* (p. 487) have slightly longer capsules with a deciduous lid. *M. curvicolle* (p. 489) has curved setae. *Protobryum bryoides* (p. 485) is much larger (up to 1 cm tall) and has elongated capsules. *Pottiopsis caespitosa* (p. 437) has leaves with plane margins and capsules that are both elongated and have a lid. *Ephemerum recurvifolium* (p. 503) is similarly tiny and also occurs on disturbed, calcareous soil, but holds its capsules between the leaves, rather than above them on a short seta.

**Habitat** A lime-loving moss of disturbed soil in calcareous grassland, quarries, cliffs, arable fields and beside tracks. It is frequent in the southern lowlands of England and Wales, becoming scarcer further north.