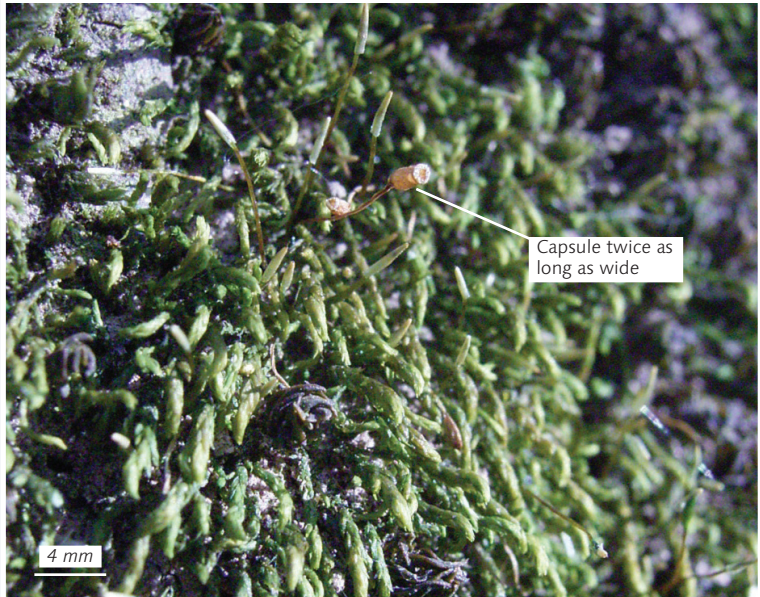
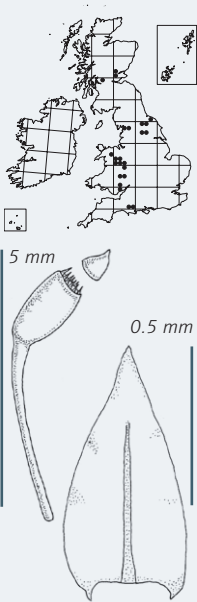


*Myrinia pulvinata*

Flood-moss



Capsule twice as long as wide

## Identification

*M. pulvinata* forms dull, dark green tufts, with slender, more or less erect branches that arise from prostrate primary stems. These branches are about 1 cm long, and become rather cylindrical when dry, as the leaves clasp the branch stems. They tend to be of approximately equal length on a patch, giving a uniform appearance that is not shared by other, similar-sized species. Leaves are only about 0.5 mm long, with a faint nerve reaching to mid-leaf. Slightly curved, oval-oblong capsules are often produced in summer. These are held erect, are less than 1.5 mm long – about twice as long as wide – and borne on a seta about 6 mm long.

## Similar species

*M. pulvinata* resembles a slender version of the much commoner *Leskea polycarpa* (p. 689), and may occur with it, but can be distinguished by its usually smaller size, darker colour, branches of consistent length on a patch, and capsules that are only about twice as long as wide (as opposed to 4 times longer than wide in *L. polycarpa*). *L. polycarpa* also has a thicker, more prominent nerve.

## Habitat

Flood-moss is well-named, being confined to the boles and roots of trees growing in the flood zone of lowland rivers and streams, always where flooding is intermittent but often deep. Willows are favoured, particularly sloping sections of trunks rather than vertical or horizontal surfaces.