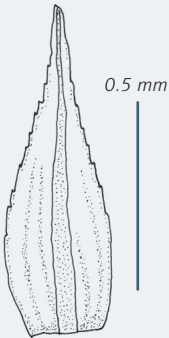
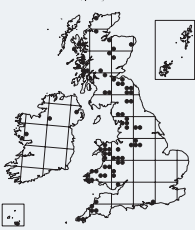


Philonotis arnellii

Arnell's Apple-moss



Identification Very small and slender, the pale or bright green shoots are only 0.5–1 cm tall, with extremely small leaves (0.6–0.9 mm long) that typically have a relatively very long tip and plane margins. Fragile shootlets may arise from the axils of leaves. Capsules are very rarely produced in summer.

Similar species Stunted shoots of *P. fontana* (p. 636) can look very like *P. arnellii*, and may have plane leaf margins. Typical *P. fontana* is bigger (2 cm or more tall), with longer leaves (0.8–1.5 mm) that typically have recurved margins, but it is best to check microscopic features for confirmation of identification. Mature shoots of *P. arnellii* (which have relatively dark green or brownish leaves) should be collected, especially those with fertile branches (these have reflexed leaves). The leaves of *Conostomum tetragonum* (p. 632) are arranged in 5 ranks.

Habitat *P. arnellii* grows on intermittently wet soil and in rock crevices, particularly on lightly shaded, rocky or earthy banks. A favoured habitat is friable soil on ledges of rock outcrops, especially by rivers. *P. arnellii* also grows by streams and in woodland rides, on quarry floors and by reservoirs, and on cliffs in the mountains.