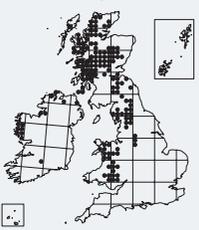
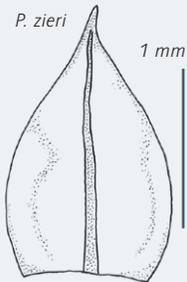


Plagiobryum zieri/demissum

Zierian/Alpine Hump-moss

*P. zieri**P. zieri*

1 mm



Capsules with long neck

P. zieri*P. demissum*

Shoots pinkish below

P. zieri

Identification

The branched shoots of *P. zieri* form tufts typically 1–2 cm tall, silvery green or almost white above, and pale pink below. Short (1 mm long), very concave leaves are held erect against the stem, with a nerve that reaches the leaf tip. Capsules form fairly frequently between May and September. They are 6–7 mm long, held approximately horizontal, with a long neck tapering into a seta which is curved at the top and 6–10 mm long. The leaves surrounding the base of the seta are about 2 mm long, and conspicuously longer than the lower leaves. The rare *P. demissum* is smaller and lacks any pink tinge, forming reddish-brown tufts up to 5 mm tall, with leaves rather longer (about 2 mm) relative to their width and not held so close to the stem. The leaves of *P. demissum* have an excurrent nerve, and its asymmetrically curved capsules droop. These are 6–7 mm long, and held on a short, curved seta.

Similar species

Bryum argenteum (p. 596) can look very similar, but lacks any pink tinge on the lower part of its shoots, and has a much shorter (about 1.5 mm) capsule that lacks the long, tapering neck of *Plagiobryum*. In addition, the leaves of *P. zieri* have very large, lax cells (visible with a hand lens), unlike those of *B. argenteum*. Also, the nerve of *B. argenteum* becomes rather indistinct in the upper part of the leaves. *Anomobryum julaceum* (p. 579) also lacks a pink tinge on the lower part of its shoots, and its capsules are shorter (3 mm long) with a much shorter neck than those of *P. zieri*. *Myurella julacea* (p. 775) is tiny, with leaves only about 0.5 mm long. *Stegonia latifolia* (p. 469) is also tiny (shoots only about 2 mm tall) and holds its capsules erect.

Habitat

P. zieri mainly grows in the mountains, in crevices of damp, base-rich, shaded (often north- or east-facing) rock outcrops and cliffs. It also occurs on soil in gullies, and in ravines. *P. demissum* grows in damp crevices on base-rich or calcareous rock on higher mountains, and is not known below an altitude of 750 m.