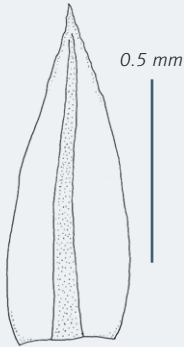
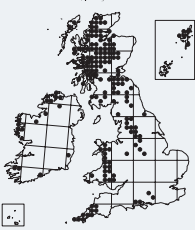


Pohlia drummondii

Drummond's Thread-moss



Identification Shoots are typically 1–2 cm tall, with leaves 1–1.5 mm long. Some (but not all) leaf axils contain a single, large (0.5–1 mm long) brown bulbil, a feature shared only with *P. filum* (see below). Pear-shaped, pendulous capsules occasionally develop in summer in Scotland.

Similar species *P. filum* (Smith, p. 604) also has solitary bulbils in its leaf axils, but these are normally yellowish, with their rudimentary leaves confined to the tips of the bulbils, whereas *P. drummondii* has rudimentary leaves extending to half way down the sides of the bulbils. Microscopical examination of the bulbils will confirm identification. *P. filum* also has wider leaves that do not spread so widely from the stem, and may make that species look like *Anomobryum julaceum* (p. 579). The leaves of *P. drummondii* are usually less widely spaced on the stem than those of *P. annotina* (p. 607), which sometimes has very large bulbils, but leaf axils elsewhere on the shoot will have the clusters of bulbils normal in size for that species. *P. scotica* (Smith, p. 604) resembles *P. drummondii*, but lacks bulbils and has narrower, more longly tapering leaves. When dry, its leaves spread more than those of *P. drummondii* or *P. filum*. *P. scotica* is rare on damp, sandy and stony ground by lakes and streams in the mountains. The leaves of *Aongstroemia longipes* (p. 363) are shorter in proportion to their width, with a blunt tip, and *A. longipes* lacks bulbils.

Habitat *P. drummondii* grows in fairly moist, ruderal places – sandy soil or gravel by streams and rivers, on and by tracks, in disused gravel pits and in crevices of rocks on mountains.