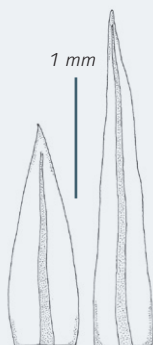
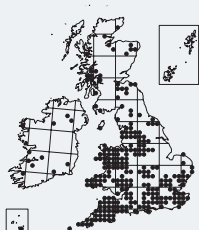


Pohlia lutescens

Yellow Thread-moss



Identification *P. lutescens* is a subtle species, but once known it is found widely, being recognized by its small size and pale colour. Its shoots are small (3–8 mm tall), with glossy, pale yellow-green leaves 2–3 mm long. *P. lutescens* may grow as scattered shoots (or occasionally as patches) among other bryophytes, such as *Dicranella heteromalla* (p. 371), *Calypogeia arguta* (p. 90) or *Diplophyllum albicans* (p. 166). Capsules are not known in Britain.

Similar species *P. lescuriana* (Smith, p. 611) is less yellowish and is not glossy, but is most reliably distinguished from *P. lutescens* by microscopical examination of the rhizoidal tubers, which are knobby in *P. lutescens* and smooth in *P. lescuriana*. *P. melanodon* (p. 610) has wider upper leaves, but can sometimes only be reliably distinguished from *P. lutescens* and *P. lescuriana* by examining the tubers. Tuberosus *Bryum* species (see *B. rubens*, p. 598) normally have taller and wider shoots, with leaves wider relative to their length, and a nerve which does not end below the leaf tip.

Habitat This is mainly a moss of bare soil in open conditions in the lowlands – by paths, in hedge banks, ditches and on streamsides. It is easy to overlook, being small and often occurring as scattered shoots.