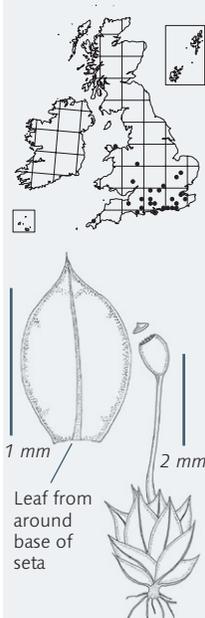


Pottiopsis caespitosa

Pottia caespitosa

Round-fruited Pottia



Identification

Close examination of small Pottias is needed to spot this species, as its diagnostic character lies in the leaves sheathing the base of the seta, which are wider than the leaves below. Vegetative shoots are only slightly more than 1 mm tall (3 mm tall including the seta and capsule), and greenish-yellow. Leaves are about 0.8 mm long, and broad relative to their width (only 2–3 times longer than wide), with plane margins. Capsules are frequently produced from December until April. They are 1 mm long, and nearly as wide, but narrowed at the rim. The lid is obliquely pointed, and a peristome is present. The setae are pale yellow, and up to 3 mm long.

Similar species

Tortula lanceola (p. 481) is bigger, with shoots up to 5 mm tall, and leaves longer (about 2 mm) relative to their width. *T. viridifolia* (p. 484) also grows up to 5 mm tall, but has leaves up to 3–4 times longer than wide, with a much more longly excurrent nerve. *T. modica* (p. 483) is a bigger moss (up to 1.5 cm tall) and its capsules are clearly longer than wide. *T. truncata* (p. 482) is usually also bigger (up to 5 mm tall), with capsules which do not narrow at the rim and lack a peristome. *Pottia davalliana* and *P. starkeana* (p. 487) have leaves with recurved margins and capsules that are clearly longer than wide. *Microbryum rectum* (p. 488) has leaves with recurved margins and spherical capsules that do not shed their lid. *Protobryum bryoides* (p. 485) is bigger (with shoots up to 10 mm tall) and its capsules are considerably longer than wide.

Habitat

P. caespitosa most often occurs on bare soil on chalk grassland, particularly on steep slopes. It also grows on limestone banks, disturbed ground by tracks, in disused chalk pits, on calcareous coastal sand, and on soil at the edge of sea cliffs.