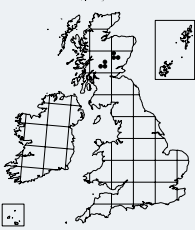


Tayloria lingulata

Marsh Collar-moss



Identification The shoots are pale green above, almost black below, and often form dense stands up to 4 cm tall. The leaves are 5 mm long, broad, and more or less parallel-sided with entire margins. The oval, upright capsule is borne on a long (up to 3 cm), slightly wavy, red seta. Capsules are common.

Similar species The blunt, more or less parallel-sided leaves are characteristic. *Tetraplodon* species (p. 569) have a long, thin leaf tip. *Splachnum* species (pp. 570–571) have pointed leaves, except for *S. vasculosum* (Smith, p. 520) in which the leaves are very broadly egg-shaped. In addition, both *Tetraplodon* and *Splachnum* species grow on dung or the remains of animals. *Meesia uliginosa* (p. 574) and *Amblyodon dealbatus* (p. 575) might also be confused at first sight, but these have differently shaped leaves and capsules. An even rarer species, *Tayloria tenuis* (Smith, p. 515), has strongly toothed leaves that are narrow near the base and broader towards the tip, and has only been seen recently at a single site in Caithness.

Habitat This rare species is confined to base-rich flushes on high ground in the Scottish Highlands. It is particularly characteristic of wet rocks within flushes, and may, in some suitable areas (e.g. the Ben Lawers range), form extensive colonies.