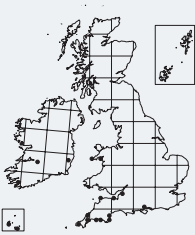
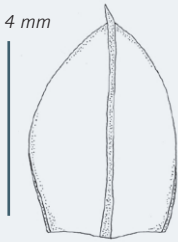


*Tortula cuneifolia*

Wedge-leaved Screw-moss



4 mm



## Identification

Shoots form bright green patches or scattered plants about 5 mm tall. The leaves vary in shape, but are typically concave, broadly oval, plane at the margins and widest above the middle. The uppermost leaves are 4–5 mm long, usually about half as wide as long, and narrow abruptly near the tip. The nerve either ends in the tip or (more usually) is excurrent as a yellowish or colourless point for as much as one-third of the length of the leaf. Elongated capsules are frequent in spring, borne on a reddish seta about 1–2 cm long.

## Similar species

The rare *T. freibergii* (Smith, p. 349) also has leaves of variable shape, with a nerve that usually ceases in the tip. It grows up to 2 mm tall and occurs on rock rather than soil. *T. solmsii* (Smith, p. 351) is also rare, and its form varies depending on whether the plant has developed in shade or unshaded conditions. Its shoots are 1–2.5 mm tall and have less spreading leaves than *T. freibergii*. The nerve may either end in the leaf tip or run out into a yellow-green point. It grows on rock or in crevices of rock and tolerates shade. Like *T. cuneifolia*, *T. solmsii* is a coastal moss. *T. solmsii* may also be confused with *T. vahliana* (Smith, p. 353), which is rare on chalky soil, and has leaves with plane margins or recurved to mid-leaf, and a greenish excurrent nerve. *Hennediella* species (pp. 490–491) may look similar, but the leaves are toothed near the tip.

## Habitat

Never common, and now rare on low-lying, bare soil, in crevices of rock on banks, waste ground, cliff ledges and in disused quarries on or near the coast.