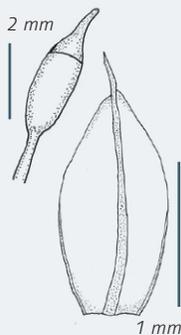


*Tortula lanceola**Pottia lanceolata*

Lance-leaved Pottia

Key 264



Identification Shoots form patches or tufts up to 5 mm tall. The leaves are about 2 mm long, with an excurrent nerve and recurved margins. Dark, red-brown capsules are 1–1.75 mm long, and common in late winter and spring. They have a longly pointed lid and a well-developed peristome.

Similar species *T. modica* (p. 483) is typically larger (shoots up to 1.5 cm tall). Its capsules are lighter brown, less obviously narrowed at the rim, and lack a well-developed peristome. The capsules of *T. viridifolia* (p. 484) and the now rare *T. wilsonii* (Smith, p. 358) also lack a peristome. *T. atrovirens* (p. 480) has leaves of a similar shape, but with a very much wider nerve in the upper part of the leaves. The leaves of *T. leucostoma* (Smith, p. 355) taper gradually from the base to the tip, whereas those of *T. lanceola* are widest at mid-leaf. The basal membrane of the peristome in *T. leucostoma* is much taller than in *T. lanceola*. The capsules of *T. truncata* (p. 482) lack a peristome and are no longer than wide. *Pottia davalliana* and *P. starkeana* (p. 487) are smaller mosses (shoots 1–2 mm tall) and the capsules have a bluntly conical lid. The rare *Pottiopsis caespitosa* (p. 437) has smaller (about 1 mm long) capsules, yellow setae and leaves wider relative to their length (0.75 mm long) with plane margins. *Microbryum rectum* (p. 488) has spherical capsules that do not shed their lid. *Protobryum bryoides* (p. 485) is larger (shoots up to 1 cm tall) and its capsules do not shed their lid.

Habitat *T. lanceola* grows on well-drained, disturbed, calcareous soil, for example banks of shallow turf over calcareous sandstone, chalk or limestone in quarries.