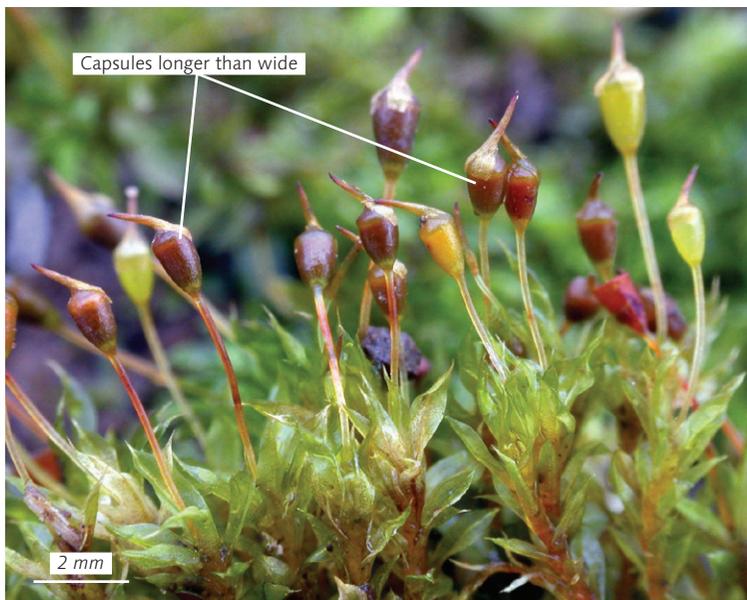
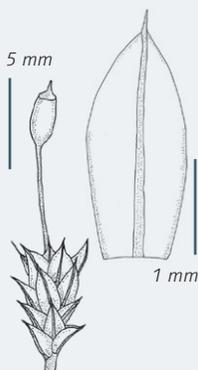
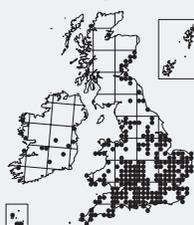


*Tortula modica**Pottia intermedia*

Blunt-fruited Pottia

Key 266



Identification

This moss looks like *T. truncata* (p. 482), but with capsules longer than wide and leaves with partly recurved margins. Shoots form patches or occur scattered, up to 1.5 cm tall. Leaves are about 2–2.5 mm long. Capsules are common in winter and spring, longer (about 1–1.5 mm) than wide, and typically widest slightly below the rim. They are borne on a seta 4–6 mm long and have a pointed lid. The peristome is absent or rudimentary.

Similar species

T. truncata (p. 482) has capsules not (or very little) longer than wide and a distinctively wide mouth, and its leaves have plane margins. *T. lanceola* (p. 481) is a smaller moss (shoots up to 5 mm tall) and has dark, red-brown capsules that are more obviously narrowed at the rim and with an obvious peristome. *T. viridifolia* (p. 484) is typically smaller (shoots up to 5 mm tall), with leaves wider relative to their length, a less tapering tip, and often a more longly excurrent nerve. *Pottiopsis caespitosa* (p. 437) is a smaller moss (about 1 mm tall), with capsules hardly longer than wide. *Pottia davalliana* and *P. starkeana* (p. 487) are smaller mosses (shoots up to 3 mm tall), with leaves only about 1 mm long and capsules that have a bluntly conical rather than a longly pointed lid. *Protobryum bryoides* (p. 485) has a capsule that does not shed its lid, and usually shorter (2–5.5 mm long) setae, so that the capsules only just clear the leaves. *Hennediella* species (pp. 490–491) may look similar, but the leaves are toothed near the tip.

Habitat

T. modica grows on disturbed soil in fields and gardens, on waste ground, banks, anthills and molehills, coastal slopes, in quarries, by tracks and paths, and on walls. It may also grow with *Hennediella heimii* on the upper reaches of saltmarshes.