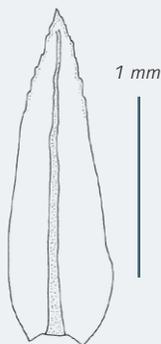
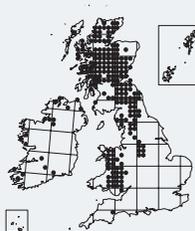


Pohlia cruda

Opal Thread-moss



Identification *P. cruda* forms rather loose tufts 2–4 cm tall. Its leaves are 2.5 mm long, pale or glaucous green, and have a characteristic opalescent sheen. The stems are red. Elliptically shaped capsules occasionally develop in summer.

Similar species *P. wahlenbergii* (p. 611) is also very pale, but not glossy. The very rare *P. crudoides* (Smith, p. 597) forms glaucous green cushions. Its shoots are reddish below, with red stems, and quite narrow leaves. Unlike *P. cruda*, the shoots of *P. crudoides* have no metallic sheen when dry. In Britain, *P. crudoides* is known only from rock crevices high on one Scottish mountain. *Mnium stellare* (p. 613) can also look pale, but forms denser tufts or patches, and has leaves wider relative to their length, with a base that runs down onto the stem, and toothed margins. *P. nutans* (p. 605) and *P. elongata* (p. 604) are neither pale nor glossy. *Saelania glaucescens* (p. 351) is not so pale as *P. cruda*, and has narrower leaves. *Mielichhoferia* species (p. 601) are also glaucous. *M. mielichhoferiana* (Smith, p. 591) most resembles *Pohlia* species, but its leaves are less than 1 mm long and its shoots are less than 1 mm wide.

Habitat *P. cruda* favours base-enriched substrates, growing mainly in shaded crevices and recesses of rocks in the mountains, and on cliff ledges. It also occurs in ravines and on coastal cliffs above the tidal zone in northern Britain.