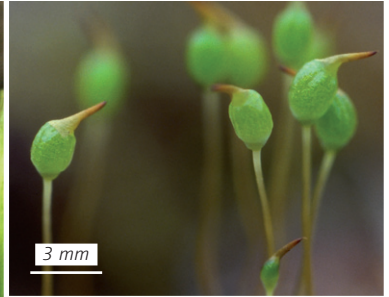
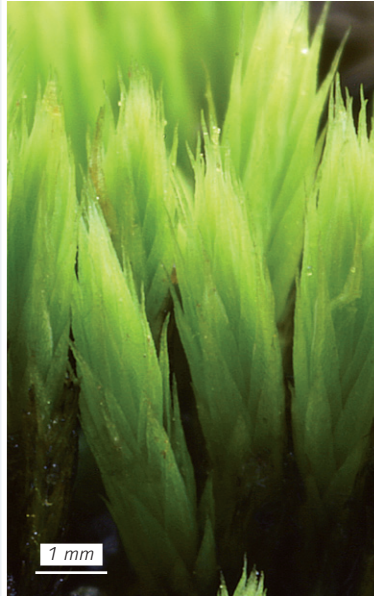
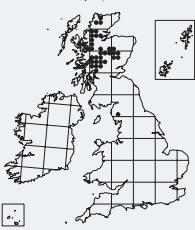


Conostomum tetragonum

Helmet-moss



Identification The shoots are a pale glaucous green, 2 cm or more tall, with narrowly spearhead-shaped, sharply pointed leaves 1.75–2 mm long and appressed to the stem, overlapping each other, and clearly arranged in 5 ranks. The capsules are about 2 mm long, almost spherical, yet asymmetrical, on a long seta.

Similar species Not easily confused with any other species. Species of *Philonotis* (pp. 633–639) can be a similar colour, but the very distinctly 5-ranked leaves of *Conostomum* are diagnostic. The very rare *Mielichhoferia elongata* (p. 601) is similarly coloured, but lacks 5-ranked shoots.

Habitat Forming tufts and cushions on acidic, skeletal soil among rocks in the mountains, especially in late-lying snowbeds and on summit ridges.