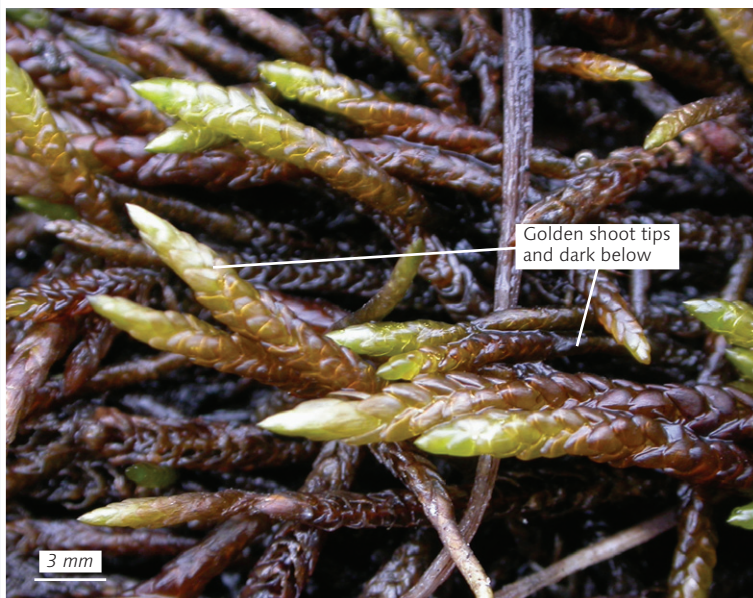
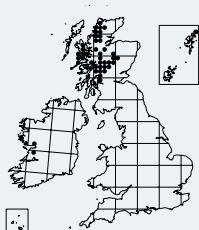


Pseudocalliergon trifarium

Calliergon trifarium

Three-ranked Spear-moss



Golden shoot tips
and dark below

3 mm

Identification Though rather rare, *P. trifarium* is very easily recognized. It has long, sometimes very long (20 cm or more), hardly branched shoots which usually lie procumbent in wet flushes and runnels, or over wet rocks, but may also grow erect in mires. The youngest leaves are usually golden, contrasting strongly with dark brownish older parts. The leaves are concave, with a broad, rounded tip that sometimes has a short, abrupt point, and lie appressed to each other in a neat, regular fashion, giving the shoots a rounded, worm-like appearance. The leaves are about 1 mm wide, only a little longer, and hardly altered when dry. They have a slender, single nerve and an indistinct patch of cells in the basal corners, both of which may be hard to detect in the field, but which are scarcely needed to identify such a distinctive moss. Capsules are very infrequent.

Similar species The worm-like, little-branched shoots, and broad leaves are very distinctive and are not likely to be confused with other mosses that grow in the same habitat. *Straminergon stramineum* (p. 720) is more slender, with narrower leaves, often twice as long as wide, and always pale green. Unlike *P. trifarium*, it is confined to base-poor mires.

Habitat *P. trifarium* is rare in base-rich, northern mires, more rarely over wet rock slabs, occurring as isolated shoots among other mosses, or as straggling patches. It is known from Scotland and western Ireland, principally in mountainous areas. Searching *Scorpidium* flushes is usually the best tactic when hunting *P. trifarium*.