Tetraplodon mnioides/angustatus

Slender/Narrow Cruet-moss

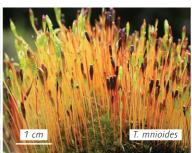


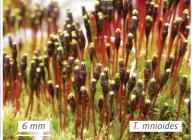
T. mnioides



T. angustatus







Identification The tightly packed shoots of these species form light green tufts 2–6 cm tall, usually with abundant capsules. The leaves are 3-5 mm long, entire, or almost so in T. mnioides, but strongly toothed in T. angustatum, and drawn out to a long, thin, wavy tip. Upright, cylindrical capsules of T. mnioides are borne on a long, thick seta up to 3 cm long, and have a conspicuously long, thickened neck that does not, however, grow significantly thicker than the main part of the capsule. The capsule of T. angustatus is borne on a much shorter seta, less than 5 mm long.

Similar species Splachnum species (pp. 570-571) have much more shortly pointed leaves, differently shaped capsules and a relatively more slender seta.

Habitat Both species are very habitat-specific, growing on the scats of carnivores (usually fox), often perched on rocks or mounds of moss in scree and by paths. T. angustatus is a much rarer plant, almost confined to the central and eastern Scottish Highlands.