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The image is a composite of 114 frames, captured with a DSLR camera (Canon T3i) mounted on an Olympus BX51 microscope. The objective lens is an Olympus LMPlanF1 20x projected directly onto the camera sensor, with lighting provided by a diffused pair of flash guns (Canon Macro Twin Lite MT-24EX). The Z-axis increment between frames was controlled with a stepper motor and a Cognisys StackShot controller, hooked-up to the fine-focus knob of the microscope via a DIY pulley and gear system. See: www.photomacrography.net, for examples of similar set-ups.

▲ Ventral scale appendages of *Marchantia polymorpha*, located at the thallus apex where a few typically emerge onto the dorsal surface. The shape of the cells along the margins of an appendage is a useful character to help determine subspecies recognition: here clearly dentate and indicating either subspecies *ruderalis* or *montivagans*, rather than the nominate form