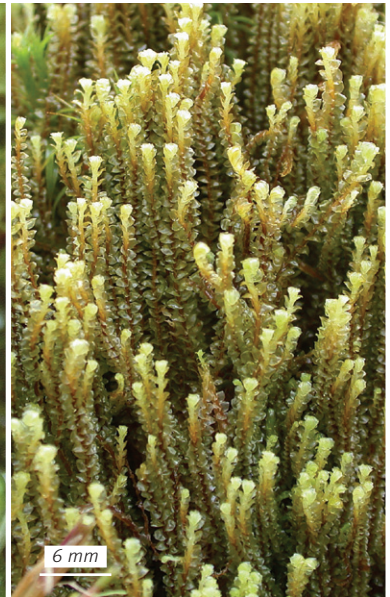
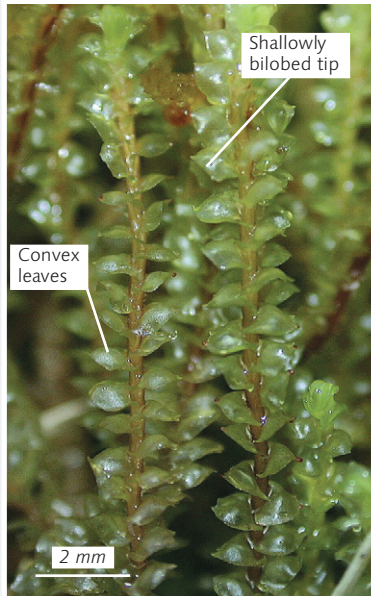
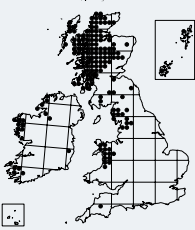


Anastrepta orcadensis

Orkney Notchwort



Identification This tall, slender liverwort produces shoots up to 5 cm long and 1.4 mm wide, with leaves up to 2 mm wide and long. It holds its leaves in an unusual (if difficult to describe) way, with the whole leaf looking convex when viewed from the front. It is reminiscent of a pale green, opaque *Plagiochila*, but with untoothed (usually shallowly bilobed) leaves and gemmae. *Anastrepta* often grows as single stems through tufts of other bryophytes, so it can be difficult to spot in the field.

Similar species *Plagiochila* species (pp. 192–199) never have gemmae and usually have toothed leaf margins. The youngest leaves of *Plagiochila* are held in the same direction as the stem, whereas the shoot tip of *Anastrepta* is curved over, towards the observer. Two other species that grow as slender stems through other bryophytes can look similar: both *Lophozia ventricosa* (p. 116) and *Tritomaria quinqueidentata* (p. 136) have leaves that are concave when viewed from above (convex in *Anastrepta*), both are typically much brighter green, and *T. quinqueidentata* has 3 leaf lobes and characteristically asymmetrical leaves.

Habitat A locally common plant in the northern hepatic mat (a mixture of large liverworts on heathery slopes in the Scottish Highlands). It is found further south than some of the other hepatic mat species, albeit often in small quantity. Its other habitats include the floor of Atlantic woodlands, and gaps between blocks in scree beds. Slender shoots can be found growing among *Sphagnum quinquefarium* or *Dicranum scoparium*, usually mixed with *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Plagiochila spinulosa* and other liverworts.