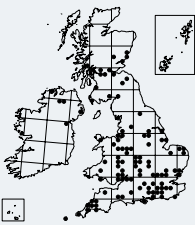
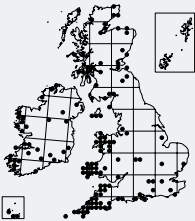


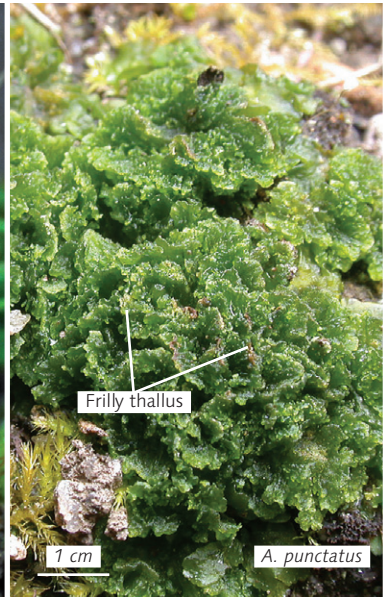
Anthoceros agrestis/punctatus

Field/Dotted Hornworts

Key 23

*A. agrestis**A. punctatus*

Horn-like sporophytes

A. agrestis

Frilly thallus

A. punctatus

Identification

The opaque, dark green, circular thalli of both these hornworts are typically 2–3 cm across, look very frilly, and usually have various ridges and crests on the upper surface. Male organs lie in pits in the thalli, which are mixed among the female horns and incipient horns on consistently monoicous thalli. *A. agrestis* and *A. punctatus* can only be distinguished by measuring the dimensions of the male organs. Mature spores on the tip of the horns are black in both species.

Similar species

Phaeoceros carolinianus and *P. laevis* (p. 273) have thalli with entire, rounded margins, and without ridges and crests on the upper surface. If in doubt, measuring the male organs, scooped out of their pit and placed on a slide, will confirm which genus is being examined. The dark dots of *Nostoc* colonies in the thallus of *Anthoceros* species resemble those of *Blasia pusilla* (p. 240), which has winged thalli and distinctive gemmae.

Habitat

Both species occur in damp stubble fields, fallow land, ditchesides, woodland tracks and poached field corners. In general, *A. punctatus* is more frequent in the west and *A. agrestis* in the east. For example, over 50% of arable *Anthoceros* species checked in south-east Ireland in 2002 were *A. punctatus*, and 100% of species in marshy grassland and poached field corners in south-west Wales in 2005 were *A. punctatus*; in contrast 100% of species checked in south-east Wales since 2000 were *A. agrestis*.