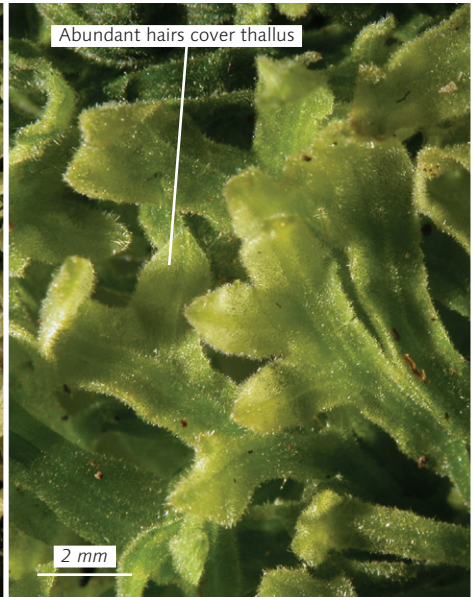
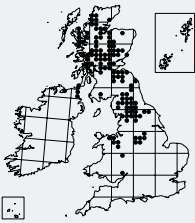


*Apometzgeria pubescens**Metzgeria pubescens*

Downy Veilwort

Key 17



Identification An unmistakable grey-green, furry thallose liverwort that forms patches on limestone rocks. Thalli grow up to 2 mm wide. Both surfaces of its thalli are covered with abundant, short hairs. It is dioicous, and sporophytes are unknown in Britain.

Similar species *Metzgeria furcata* (p. 246) has scattered hairs on its underside, but is impossible to confuse with the furry *A. pubescens* if they are checked with a hand lens, as *A. pubescens* has hairs on both surfaces.

Habitat Patches of *A. pubescens* grow on dry limestone blocks and rock faces in sheltered woodland. It is fairly common in the Pennines and parts of Scotland, uncommon in north Wales, and extremely rare in the south and in Ireland.