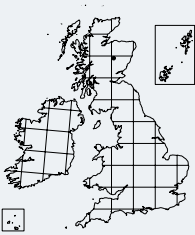


Athalamia hyalina

Hyaline Liverwort



Identification A small- to medium-sized (thalli up to about 6 mm wide) liverwort with delicate, fleshy, dichotomously branching, greyish-green, non-aromatic thalli. The upper surface is shallowly grooved, with a delicate network of lines on the upper surface, and inconspicuous air pores. Older parts of the thallus surface soon disintegrate. Male plants have no receptacles, but a line of tall projections along the middle of the thallus. Female plants have short-stalked receptacles borne along the middle of the thallus (not terminally). Each receptacle consists only of 2–4 smooth lobes, with no disc or air pores.

Similar species No other British liverwort possesses the combination of a delicate thallus with an epidermis that soon disintegrates, and female receptacles that are borne along the middle of the thallus rather than terminally.

Habitat *A. hyalina* is a very rare, montane liverwort growing on thin mineral soil over friable limestone, on open ground, on ledges of eroding crags or tucked under boulders, associated with other lime-loving mosses and liverworts such as *Reboulia* and *Preissia*. It is highly seasonal, growing in winter and early spring, and becoming very inconspicuous in summer.

Note. This species does not appear in Paton (1999). For further details, please refer to *Journal of Bryology* 25, 253–257.