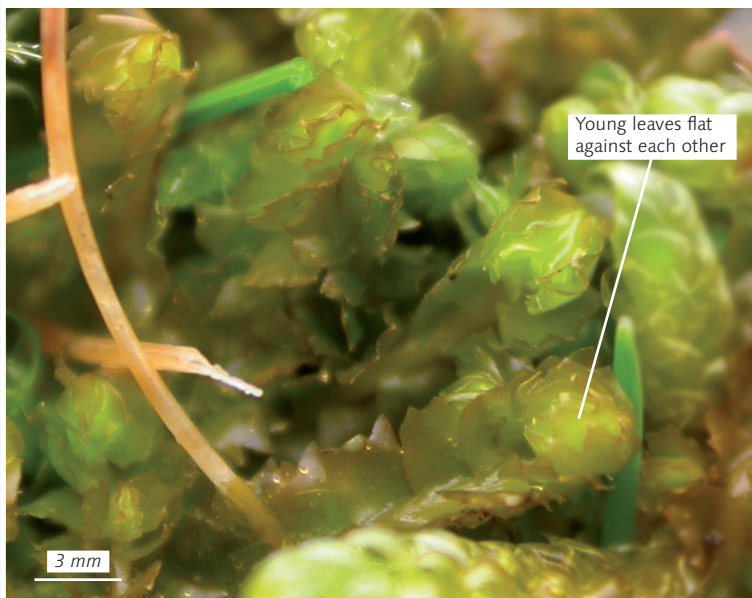
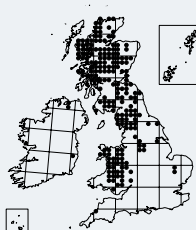


Barbilophozia barbata

Bearded Pawwort



Young leaves flat against each other

3 mm

Identification The key feature marking *B. barbata* out from its relatives is the lack of teeth on the underside of the leaf base (this beardlessness makes its name *barbata* rather illogical). Although careful examination with a hand lens will reveal this absence, *B. barbata* is usually noticed in the field by the way its young leaves are held flat against each other, whereas other *Barbilophozia* species have their leaves more curved and less pressed together. Shoots are 1–4 mm wide, with leaves up to 2 mm wide and long. Like many *Barbilophozia* species, this yellow-green or brown-green species has 3 or 4 lobes to each leaf and bilobed underleaves. Gemmae are unknown.

Similar species The 3- or 4-lobed leaves invite confusion with other common *Barbilophozia* species, such as *B. floerkei*, *B. atlantica* and *B. hatcheri* (p. 112), but these species have teeth on the underside of the leaf base. *Tritomaria quinquedentata* (p. 136) is similar in size and lacks teeth at the base of its leaves, but it also lacks underleaves, is bright green, and has very asymmetrical leaves.

Habitat Unpredictable in occurrence, *B. barbata* grows in small quantity in a range of different habitats, mainly in upland districts. It tends to be found among other liverworts on boulder tops, drystone walls, rock ledges or in heathy turf. There are also a few records from disused mines, sand dunes and tussocks in flushes.