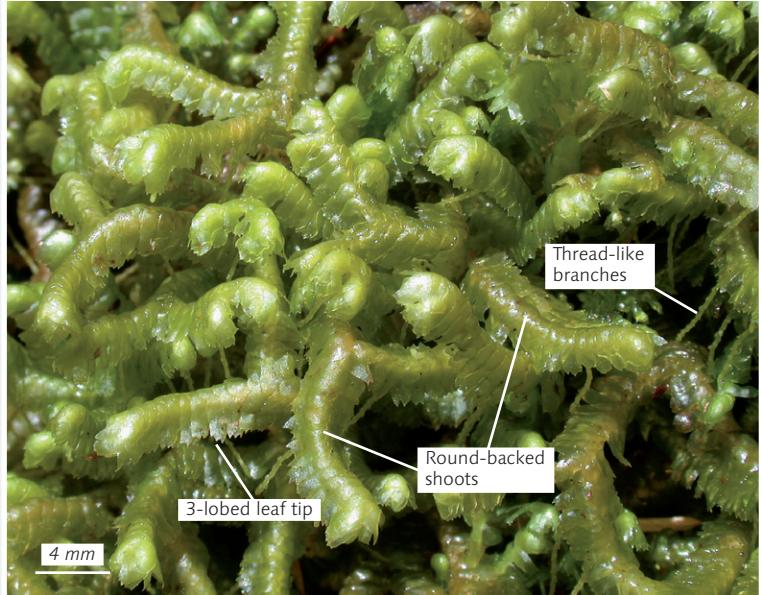
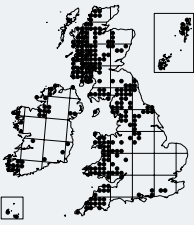


Bazzania trilobata

Greater Whipwort

Key 50



Identification *B. trilobata* is one of the characteristic bryophytes of humid woodland in the northern and western parts of Britain, and often one of the first species to catch the eye in such places. It usually grows in large (up to 10 cm across), bright green or brownish-green mounds, with shoots 4–6 mm wide. Leaves are a little under 3 mm wide, and a similar length. Each leaf points downwards so that the shoots have rounded backs. The leaf tip has 3 short teeth, and is about one-third the width of the leaf base. Slender, thread-like branches stick down into the centre of the *Bazzania* mound, and are usually abundant.

Similar species Easily recognized, thanks to its leaf shape and large size. The scarcer *B. tricrenata* (p. 83) is only one-third the width of *B. trilobata* and usually looks tall and slender rather than large and lumpy. *Lepidozia* species (pp. 80–81) are much more slender and have 4-fingered leaves.

Habitat A classic plant of oak (*Quercus*) woods in western Britain: *B. trilobata* can be an abundant component of the ground layer in the most humid wooded valleys, but is restricted to the rockiest parts of less humid woods. As well as growing on the ground and on rocks, it can colonize logs and grow on tree trunks. It is seldom found away from woodland, although block scree and open, rocky hillsides sometimes provide sufficiently humidity. Towards the south-east of its British range, *B. trilobata* is an uncommon species of sandstone or conglomerate blocks in woodland.