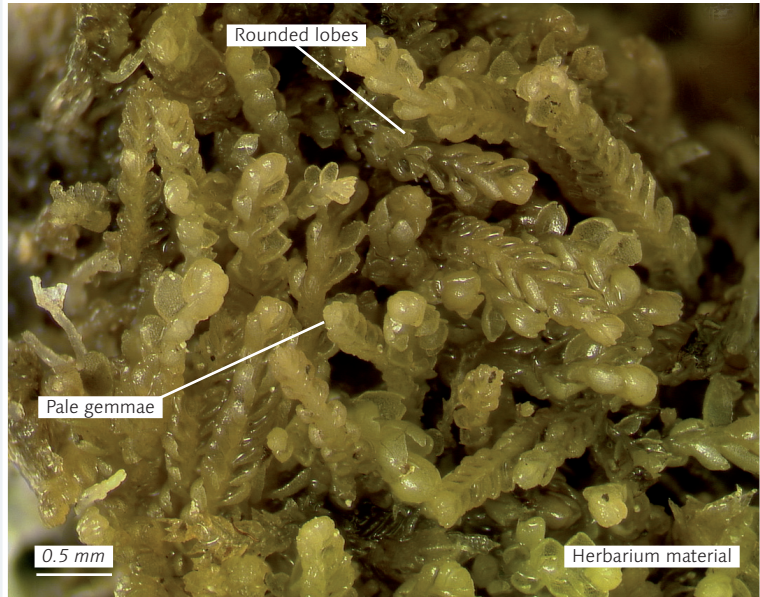
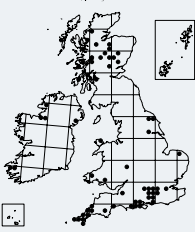


*Cladopodiella francisci*

Holt Notchwort



**Identification** This patch-forming or creeping, green or reddish liverwort shares the leaf shape of *C. fluitans* (oblong leaves with 2 rounded lobes), but is smaller (shoots less than 1 mm wide; leaves up to 0.5 mm long) and usually has gemmae. These are pale green or less often red, and are borne on ascending shoot tips. Thread-like branches are usually present, but may be more difficult to detect than in *C. fluitans* because of the harder substrates where *C. francisci* grows. Small underleaves are present on the stem.

**Similar species** As well as being smaller than *C. fluitans* (p. 98) and gemmiferous, this species has more closely packed leaves. It is perhaps more likely to be confused with other small, gemmiferous liverworts, such as *Anastrophyllum minutum* (p. 132), *Cephaloziella* species (pp. 104–108), *Cephalozia bicuspidata* (p. 92), *Lophozia capitata* (Paton, p. 203) or *L. excisa* (p. 120). None of these have blunt, rounded leaf lobes or thread-like branches, and neither of the *Lophozia* species nor the *Anastrophyllum* have underleaves.

**Habitat** The heaths of southern England are the classic area for this scarce liverwort and it is locally frequent on a few of them. Elsewhere it is very scattered, and there are no modern records from several parts of the country where *C. francisci* was recorded in the past. It is a pioneer of acidic soil or sand in damp but well-drained places, such as track edges or ditch banks. A few colonies occur on peaty banks.