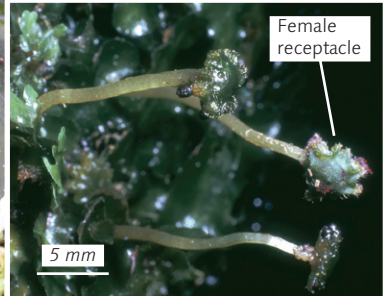
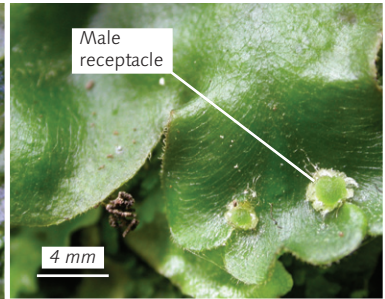
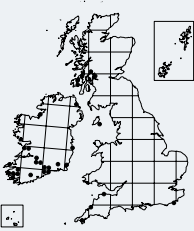


Dumortiera hirsuta

Dumortier's Liverwort



Identification

A conspicuous thallose liverwort that often forms mats. *D. hirsuta* is somewhat aromatic, with broad, flat, semi-translucent, dichotomously branching thalli up to 2 cm wide. The thallus is dull and dark green, sometimes yellow-green. It lacks air pores (except sometimes a few indistinct pores near the tip) and has no network of lines on its upper surface. The thallus margins and undersides bear scattered, stiff bristles. The male receptacles are bristly and borne on a very short stalk. Female plants have long-stalked, bristly receptacles borne at the thallus tip; each receptacle is flat-topped with 6 to 12 short, spreading lobes.

Similar species

D. hirsuta is unique in its combination of having bristles, no air pores or network of lines on its thalli, and stalked receptacles, and is therefore unlikely to be confused with other Marchantiales species growing in damp shady habitats, such as *Conocephalum conicum* and *C. salebrosum* (p. 255), *Lunularia cruciata* (p. 252) and *Marchantia polymorpha* (p. 258), all of which have conspicuous air pores on the upper surface.

Habitat

This is a rare, oceanic liverwort growing in shady, humid places by streams and waterfalls, usually on rocks or earthy banks that are often or always moist or wet, under boulders or in caves and shady recesses.