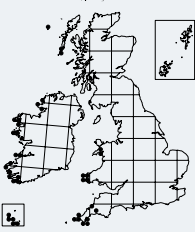


Fossombronia angulosa

Greater Frillwort



Identification This perennial species is the largest British *Fossombronia*, with shoots up to 25 mm long and 7 mm wide. It often grows in large mats and, like most British members of the genus, it has slightly to strongly crisped leaves and purple rhizoids. However, unlike most other species it is dioicous, and this can sometimes be established by careful examination in the field. Otherwise, the spores must be checked microscopically.

Similar species Well-grown *F. angulosa* forms sheets which are as large or larger than any other British *Fossombronia* (pp. 228–229, 231–233), but not all colonies are so extensive. However, the other British dioicous species (*F. incurva*, p. 232, and *F. fimbriata*, p. 233) are very small. If mature capsules are available in a suspected population, it is probably quicker to collect fruiting material for microscopical examination of the spores than to try to establish the sexuality of the colony in the field.

Habitat This highly oceanic species almost always grows within sight of the sea. It is usually found in sheltered, shaded sites, including earthy hedge banks, streamsides, rocky slopes, coastal ravines, horizontal crevices at the foot of rock outcrops and sea-cliffs.