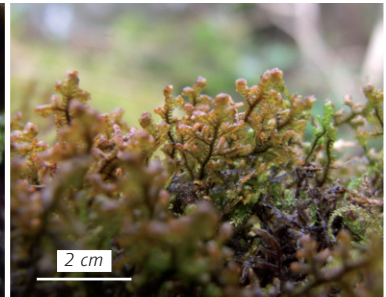
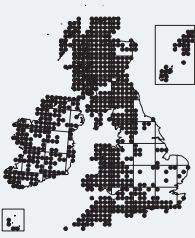


# *Frullania tamarisci*

Tamarisk Scalegwort

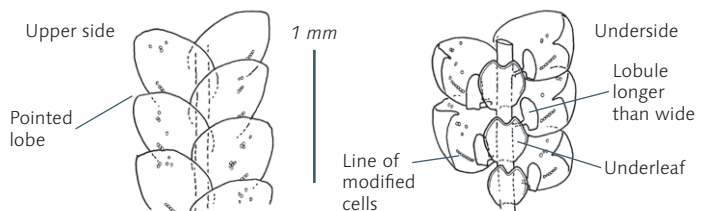
Key 44



**Identification** A reddish or brownish, subpinnately branched liverwort. Shoots are 0.6–2 mm wide. The leaves are up to 1 mm wide and 1.5 mm long, broadly egg-shaped with pointed lobes and small, helmet-shaped lobules that are distinctly longer than they are broad. Some lobe cells are modified to contain a single large oil body within somewhat darker cell walls, in a more or less continuous line from near the base of the lobe, and sometimes accompanied by similar, scattered cells (visible with a hand lens). The underleaves are wide, shallowly divided and have somewhat recurved margins.

**Similar species** All the other species of *Frullania* except *F. teneriffae* (p. 212) have rounded leaf lobes. *F. dilatata* (p. 213) has much larger, differently shaped lobules and no modified lobe cells; *F. teneriffae* also lacks modified cells, but they are present on the lobes of *F. microphylla* (p. 214) and *F. fragilifolia* (p. 215), which are smaller, darker, aromatic plants with rounded lobe tips.

**Habitat** *F. tamarisci* forms widely spreading patches that often grow closely appressed to the substrate, or sometimes forms larger, bushy masses. It is equally common on rocks and trees, and also grows in turf, especially in coastal areas. Abundant in the west, but much rarer in the east of England.



Photos Des Callaghan (left), Ian Atherton (top right) & Howard Wallis (bottom right)  
 Drawings Sean Edwards Text Nick Hodgetts