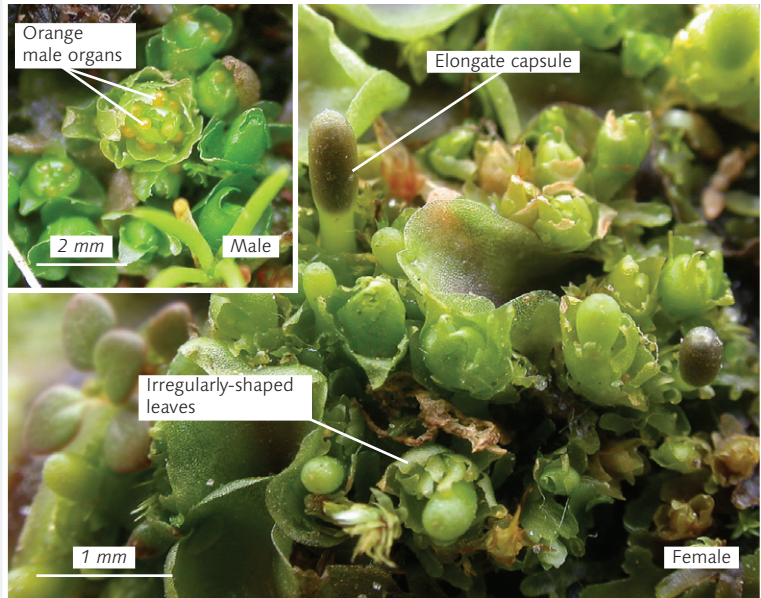
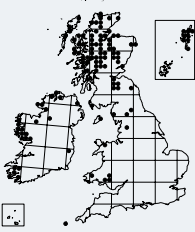


*Haplomitrium hookeri*

Hooker's Flapwort



**Identification** Small (to 1 cm tall), upright plants of *H. hookeri* grow sparsely among other bryophytes and usually require a conscious search to be found. They are distinctively bright green, with irregularly shaped leaves arranged around the stem rather than in rows like other British liverworts. This dioicous species is often fertile, male plants (see inset photograph) being particularly striking thanks to the orange male organs (similar in colour to those of *Fossombronia*). It is unique in having a branched, rather thick rhizome, instead of the thin rhizoids of other liverworts. Unlike many liverworts, the spore capsule is elongated (see photograph); this is only produced occasionally.

**Similar species** The most similar species is *Fossombronia incurva* (p. 232), which is also dioicous and grows as small, scattered plants. However, it is pale green rather than the opaque, bright green of *H. hookeri*, and has relatively wider leaves and purple rhizoids.

**Habitat** Damp, gravelly ground, often where shallow water lies in winter, is the typical habitat of *H. hookeri*. Such conditions are met on streamsides, edges of upland tracks, loch shores and the margins of flushes. *Archidium alternifolium*, *Blasia pusilla* and tall rushes (*Juncus*) are especially characteristic associates. It is also sometimes found in dune slacks, and in corries and below late-lying snow patches in the mountains. Montane plants are often much taller (to 7 cm) than those found elsewhere.