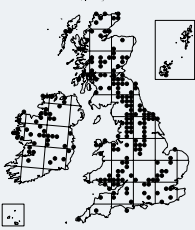


Leiocolea badensis

Scarce Notchwort



Identification Despite its English name, *L. badensis* is not that much scarcer in some districts than the similar-sized *L. turbinata*. It is small (shoots 0.3–1.5 mm wide; slightly smaller than *Gymnocolea inflata*), pale green, and has blunt leaf lobes, but lacks the scent or underleaves of the larger members of the genus. Its shoots tend to look rather flat and its leaves may be almost as spaced out on the stem as those of *L. turbinata*. Leaves are up to 1 mm wide and 0.7 mm long. The leaf base is broadly based on the front of the stem. It is dioicous and often found fertile.

Similar species The most similar species is *L. turbinata* (p. 128), which has a narrow leaf base, unlike that of *L. badensis* which runs down along the stem. The leaf shape of *L. badensis* is more like that of the slightly larger *L. alpestris* (p. 125), which has underleaves and a scent. Most of the potentially confusing *Lophozia* species, such as *Lophozia excisa* (p. 120), have gemmae, and are usually brighter shades of green.

Habitat *L. badensis* has more wide-ranging tastes in habitat than *L. turbinata*, but is much less common in the lowlands. In limestone country it is typical of disused quarries, especially damp, stony ground on their floors. It also grows on the edge of flushes, through *Hymenostylium recurvirostrum* on tufa, on calcareous rocks by streams, on shaded, damp limestone in woodland, or in calcareous dune slacks.