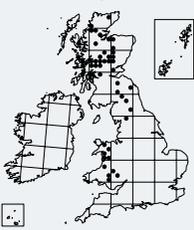


*Leiocolea heterocolpos*

Ragged Notchwort



**Identification** Brown gemmae on slightly elongated shoot tips distinguish *L. heterocolpos* from other British *Leiocolea* species. Well-grown colonies are made up of intertwining shoots, 0.5–2 mm wide, creeping over the surface of moss cushions or base-rich rock, but sometimes one only finds a shoot or two sticking out of a moss cushion. It shares the scent of *L. alpestris*, *L. bantriensis*, etc., as well as their bluntly bilobed leaves (up to about 1 mm wide and long), slender underleaves and pale green colour. However, the shoots of *L. heterocolpos* are often tinged with brown. It tends to be a bit smaller than *L. alpestris*, but the two species overlap in size.

**Similar species** Gemmiferous shoots are very different from other *Leiocolea* species, but non-gemmiferous shoots are macroscopically identical to slender plants of *L. alpestris* (p. 125). *Barbilophozia attenuata* (p. 111) also has attenuated shoots with brown gemmae, but avoids calcareous sites and has acute-tipped, 3-lobed leaves.

**Habitat** *L. heterocolpos* occurs in gorges on base-rich sandstone and calcareous cliffs. It usually grows over or through cushions of moss, especially *Amphidium mougeotii* or *Anoetangium aestivum*, often with *Plagiochila* species or *Blepharostoma trichophyllum*. It can be very difficult to detect, especially when in small quantity, so is probably somewhat overlooked.