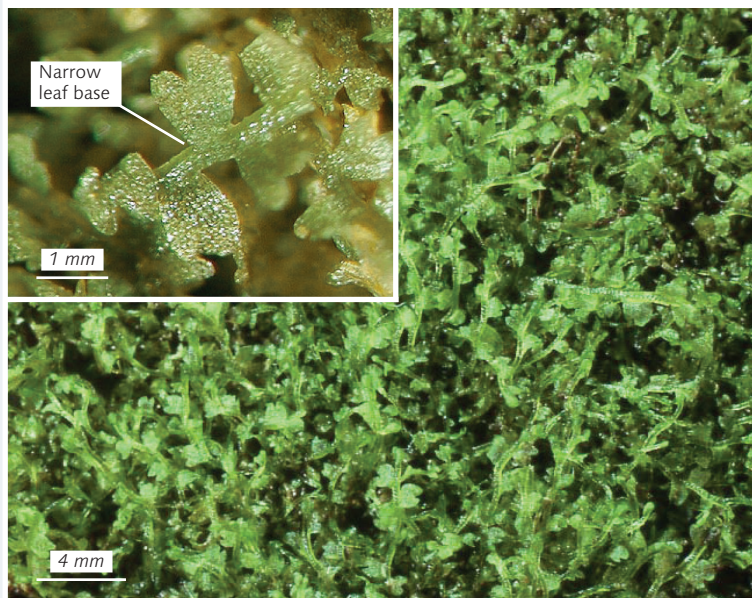
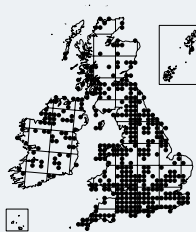


Leiocolea turbinata

Top Notchwort

Key 64



Identification *L. turbinata* forms slender shoots (0.3–1.5 mm wide) with widely spaced, bluntly bilobed, narrow-based leaves up to about 1 mm long and wide. It is unscented, lacks underleaves and gemmae, and is typically pale green. Despite its small size, *L. turbinata* can form mats covering many square centimetres. The tubular perianths of this dioicous species are common and often very prominent.

Similar species The narrow leaf base makes *L. turbinata* look different from most other liverworts. The leaves of *Cephalozia bicuspidata* (p. 92) have more sharply pointed leaf lobes, whilst *Gymnocolea inflata* (p. 129) is usually dark-coloured and has inflated perianths. *L. badensis* (p. 127) is similar in size and appearance, but has a wider leaf base that runs down the front of the stem. *Lophozia perssonii* (p. 122) also grows in chalk grasslands, but has transversely inserted leaves and almost always has prominent clusters of brown gemmae. *Jungermannia atrovirens* (p. 143) is another common associate with widely spaced leaves, but these are rounded rather than bilobed.

Habitat *L. turbinata* is almost exclusively a lowland species. It grows only on calcareous substrates, such as damp soil, clay or mortar, or on wet limestone or chalk. Chalk or limestone grasslands are its most typical habitat, but it can also be abundant in woodlands, especially in damp crevices in limestone cliffs, on river banks or ditchesides, in dune slacks or in coastal ravines.