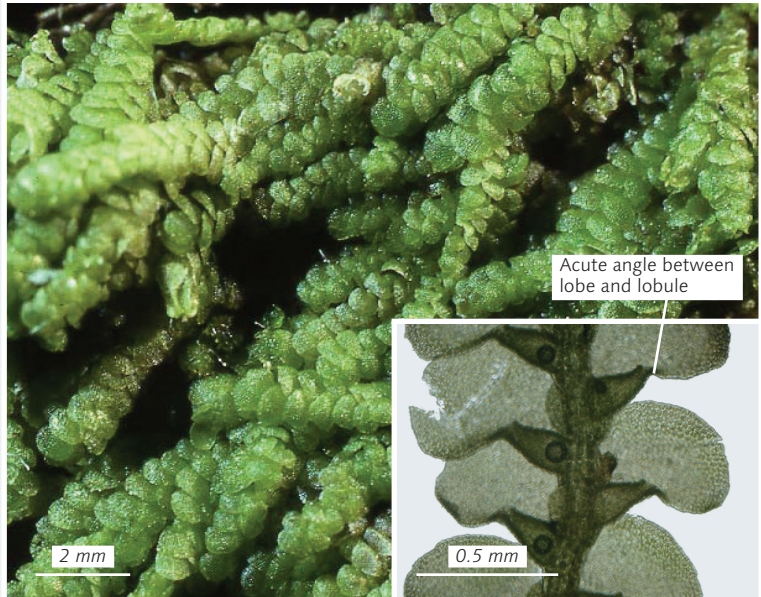
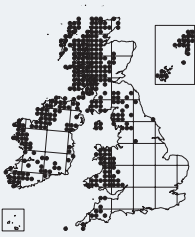


*Lejeunea patens*

Pearl Pouncewort

Key 42



**Identification** Like other *Lejeunea* species, this is a small (shoots up to 2 cm long and 0.3–1.2 mm wide), delicate, pale green or almost white plant. The lobule is large and inflated, with a sharp angle between it and the main leaf lobe; the underleaves are about the same size as or smaller than the lobules. Often fertile, with small, 5-keeled perianths.

**Similar species** *L. cavifolia* (p. 221) has relatively larger, more contiguous, underleaves and relatively smaller lobules, but it is wise to collect specimens for microscopical confirmation of the oil bodies. *L. lamacerina* (p. 222) has a smaller lobule, which makes a wide angle with the leaf lobe. *L. patens* is very variable in size, and can often be as small as *Harpalejeunea mollerii* (p. 219) and *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* (p. 218), but the rounded leaf lobe and strongly inflated lobule are characteristic. *Microlejeunea ulicina* (p. 220) is usually smaller, and has oval leaves with the lobule almost as big as the lobe.

**Habitat** This tends to be the most frequent *Lejeunea* species in upland districts, especially on base-rich crags. Less often it grows on rocks and trees at lower altitudes, where it may be somewhat overlooked.