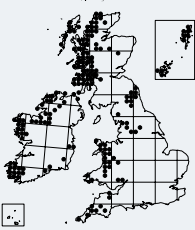


Lepidozia cupressina

Rock Fingerwort



Identification A very beautiful, robust, bright yellow-green liverwort with pinnately branched stems up to about 4 cm long and 1 mm wide, and leaves that overlap each other so the stems are not visible when viewed from above. Each leaf is about 1 mm long, and tipped with 4 or 5 fingers. *L. cupressina* typically grows as dense mounds or mats. Dried out plants turn almost white.

Similar species *L. reptans* (p. 80) and *L. pearsonii* (Paton, p. 69) both have their leaves well-spaced on the stem and branches. *Bazzania trilobata* (p. 82) is larger with 3, relatively much shorter fingers on its leaf tips. *B. tricrenata* (p. 83) is slender and sparsely branched, and also has 3 short fingers on each leaf.

Habitat A scarce, but locally abundant oceanic liverwort that grows on acidic rocks, peat, decaying logs or tree bases in humid, rocky woodlands, especially in ravines. More rarely it grows among boulders on rocky hillsides. The most south-easterly British colonies are in Millstone Grit block scree, whilst some north-eastern colonies are on north-facing sandstone crags.