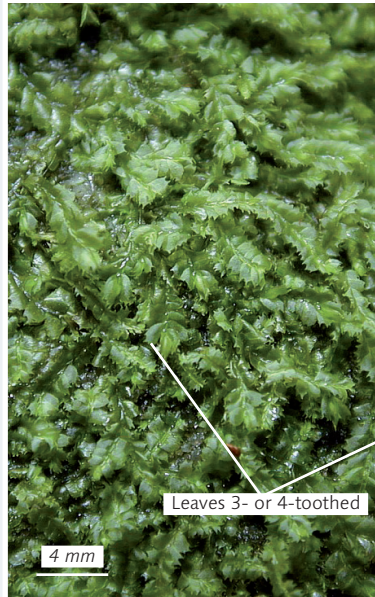
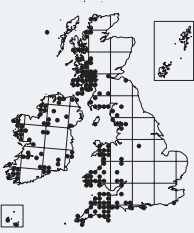


Lophocolea fragrans

Fragrant Crestwort



Identification This small or even tiny liverwort (shoots to about 1.5 mm wide; leaves less than 1 mm long or wide) has bilobed leaves with spiny margins, which makes them appear 3- or 4-toothed. The underleaves are also bilobed, with an additional lateral tooth on each side. Aromatic, and often fertile – the perianths have slender teeth and male branches occur on the same plant.

Similar species *L. bidentata* (p. 183) has conspicuously bilobed, not toothed leaves. *L. heterophylla* (p. 184) has the upper leaves entire or only slightly notched. Both tend to be larger than *L. fragrans*.

Habitat Usually found growing tightly appressed to hard, shaded rocks in humid places in oceanic woodland, particularly close to streams and waterfalls. It is often mixed with *Lejeunea lamacerina*, and can be picked out from patches of that species by sniffing them for the pungent smell typical of *Lophocolea*. In the far west it is reasonably frequent on small rocks on lane banks or on pebbles embedded in the woodland floor.