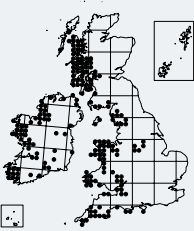


# *Marchesinia mackaii*

Mackay's Pouncewort

Key 39



**Identification** This large (shoots up to 5 cm long and 1–4 mm wide), dark green to black liverwort often forms very extensive patches, and sometimes looks like graffiti when growing on pale rocks such as limestone. The leaf lobes are broadly rounded, about 0.5–1.3 mm wide and 0.8–1.8 mm long, with a much smaller and slightly inflated lobule below. The underleaves are almost perfectly round, with no subdivision into lobes.

**Similar species** Not easily confused with any other species. The combination of colour, round underleaves and habitat are diagnostic.

**Habitat** *M. mackaii* grows on shaded, dry, base-rich rocks, especially limestone, and occasionally on trees, notably yew (*Taxus baccata*). Dry, wooded limestone crags are a typical habitat. Colonies on siliceous rock are a sure sign of base-enrichment.