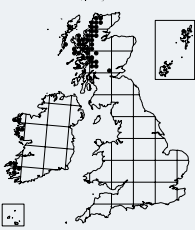


Mastigophora woodsii

Woods' Whipwort



Identification A robust (shoots several to 12 cm or more long), pinnately branched species forming loose mats with other leafy liverworts, often distinctly reddish or yellow-brown, more rarely green. The main stem is covered in overlapping, bilobed leaves, 1–2 mm long, with strongly spine-toothed margins. Primary branches are slender, curved and finely tapering with the leaves becoming smaller towards the tip. Sometimes there are a few, smaller secondary branches. Plants are always non-fertile.

Similar species A very distinctive species and not easily confused; *Trichocolea tomentella* (p. 84) is pale green without the pigmentation of *Mastigophora*; its leaves are much more finely divided and feathery; *Ptilidium ciliare* (p. 204) can be similar in colour, but has leafy branches which are short and blunt, and its leaf margins are densely toothed.

Habitat *M. woodsii* is a local species of acidic, oceanic-montane liverwort heaths found in mixed turf, often on north- to east-facing mountain slopes amongst dwarf shrubs and boulders, usually mixed with other large liverworts such as *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Herbertus aduncus*, *Plagiochila carringtonii* and *Pleurozia purpurea*.