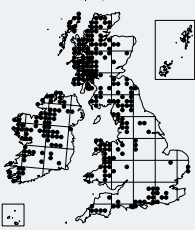


*Odontoschisma denudatum*

Matchstick Flapwort

Key 68



**Identification** Abundant, pale, white or pink gemmae, looking like blobs of candyfloss on the shoot tips, make *O. denudatum* stand out from other liverworts. It is yellowish or brownish, round-leaved, with shoots up to 1.8 mm wide, and sometimes has creeping, small-leaved shoot tips. Leaves are about 1 mm long and wide. Colonies without gemmae are very rare; they look similar to *O. sphagni*, but are too rare to be a significant problem with identification.

**Similar species** Most other gemmae-bearing liverworts have toothed, notched or lobed leaves, for example *Tritomaria exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* (p. 138), *Anastrophyllum hellerianum* (p. 133), *Lophozia* species (pp. 116–122) and *Scapania* species (pp. 168–181). The only ones with rounded leaves and gemmae are *Calypogeia* species (pp. 85–90), which are flat and have very large underleaves; *Mylia anomala* (p. 142), which has its gemmae on tapering, triangular leaves; *M. taylorii* (p. 141), which is large and red; and the very rare *Jungermannia caespiticia* (*Solenostoma caespiticium*) (Paton, p. 280), which hides its green gemmae among its leaves. *O. sphagni* (p. 102) lacks gemmae among the leaves at the shoot tips.

**Habitat** A widespread, but generally uncommon plant of upland Britain and the heaths of southern England. Although it reaches its greatest abundance on rotting logs and tree trunks in humid woodlands, it is unpredictable and often absent from apparently suitable sites. It is more frequently encountered, albeit usually in small quantity, on peaty soil on heathland and moorland or in dried-out sections of bogs.