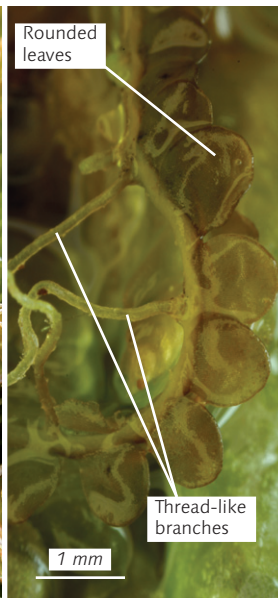
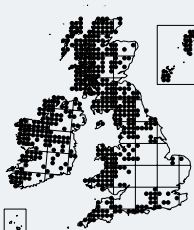


Odontoschisma sphagni

Bog-moss Flapwort

Key 70



Identification *O. sphagni* is the commonest liverwort with unlobed, round leaves held upright from the stem (rather than flat like a *Calypogeia*) that grows in bogs. *O. sphagni* is usually characteristically orange, although it may be brown or (rarely) entirely green. Shoots grow up to 3 mm wide and 8 cm long, with leaves a little over 1 mm long and wide. Its leaves have a border of small, thick-walled cells, visible through a $\times 20$ hand lens. Abundant, thread-like branches with tiny leaves stick downwards from the stem into the substrate. Fertile plants are uncommon and gemmae are absent.

Similar species No other British liverwort genus with round, unlobed leaves has thread-like branches. *O. sphagni* looks similar to various *Jungermannia* and *Nardia* species (pp. 151–154), but none grow on *Sphagnum* in bogs and none are orange. *Jamesoniella autumnalis* (p. 139) has unbordered leaves and teeth on its perianth mouth that consist of several cells in a row. *J. undulifolia* (p. 140) is usually green, and has unbordered, very shallowly notched leaves. *Mylia anomala* (p. 142) and *O. denudatum* (p. 103) have gemmae. Two other *Odontoschisma* species, both with unbordered leaves, are restricted to the far north and west. *O. elongatum* (Paton, p. 132) is a very dark, almost black liverwort that grows on loch margins, usually intermixed with filamentous algae, and can be found quite readily once its habitat is known; *O. macounii* (Paton, p. 132) is pale green and has been recorded on a few mountain ledges.

Habitat This is one of the commonest liverworts on hummocks of *Sphagnum* in raised, valley and blanket bogs. It may also grow on wet peat, and is sometimes found on heathland, on steep hillsides, or in upland woodland.