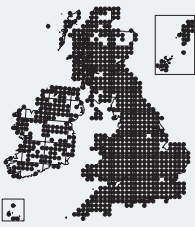


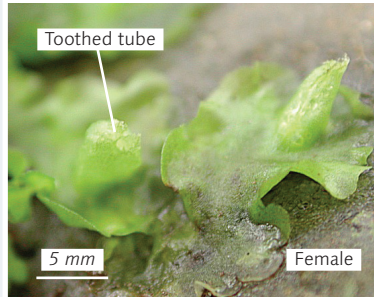
Pellia endiviifolia

Endive Pellia

Key 20, 22



Toothed tube around female organ



Identification *P. endiviifolia* usually has green or even blackish-green thalli up to about 1 cm wide, without reddish tinges. In autumn and early winter they develop numerous, narrow (to about 6 mm wide) branches at the tips (see right photograph) which are sometimes so abundant that they obscure the broader thalli on which they have developed. Plants are dioicous. A vertical tube surrounds the female organ. This tube has a closely toothed mouth.

Similar species The autumnal branches of *P. endiviifolia* are usually unmistakable, and even in summer, decaying remnants can often be found if fronds are examined carefully. Detached branchlets may be difficult to distinguish from *Riccardia chamedryfolia* (p. 243), and may have to be checked microscopically if the more distinct midrib and broader margin of *Pellia* are not apparent. Unbranched thalli differ from *P. epiphylla* (p. 235) in being dioicous, and from *P. neesiana* (p. 236) in the closely toothed mouth of the tube surrounding the female organ. Any *Pellia* in very calcareous habitats will be *P. endiviifolia*, so an identification on grounds of habitat may sometimes be safe, although intellectually slovenly. *Aneura pinguis* (p. 241) is more intensely green, the midrib is less distinct and the tip of the thallus is less lobed. In addition, *A. pinguis* looks greasy, whereas *Pellia* species appear matt.

Habitat *P. endiviifolia* replaces *P. epiphylla* in base-rich sites, growing by watercourses, by springs and in flushes, on shaded tracks and woodland rides, in fens and dune slacks, on moist floors of chalk quarries and on dripping rock outcrops.