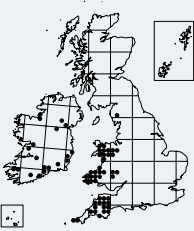


*Porella pinnata*

Pinnate Scalewort



**Identification** A lax, dark green species of *Porella*, with shoots 2–4.5 mm wide, and large leaves (up to about 2 mm wide and 2.5 mm long) that contrast with very small, flat lobules and underleaves. Growth form and habitat are strong pointers to identification: *P. pinnata* floats like a fan on the downstream side of rocks and tree roots in rivers.

**Similar species** *P. cordaeana* (p. 207) and *P. platyphylla* (p. 206) also grow by rivers, albeit usually further east in Britain than the core range of *P. pinnata*. Both have lobules with up-curved margins and bases that run down onto the stem. *Chiloscyphus polyanthos* (p. 187) shares the habitat of *P. pinnata* and has similarly sized leaves, although it tends to be slightly lighter green. However, *C. polyanthos* looks very different through a hand lens because of its deeply divided underleaves and lack of lobules.

**Habitat** A locally common liverwort by rocky, non-calcareous rivers in south-western Britain and in Ireland that is rarely found with other *Porella* species. It grows on the downstream side of rocks – both on the river's edge and in mid-flow – or on tree roots, and is submerged whenever water levels are high. Most colonies are in the wooded, upper or middle reaches of rivers, although small patches of *P. pinnata* may be found on tree roots further downstream in the flood plain. Occasionally it grows on rocks on the edges of lakes.