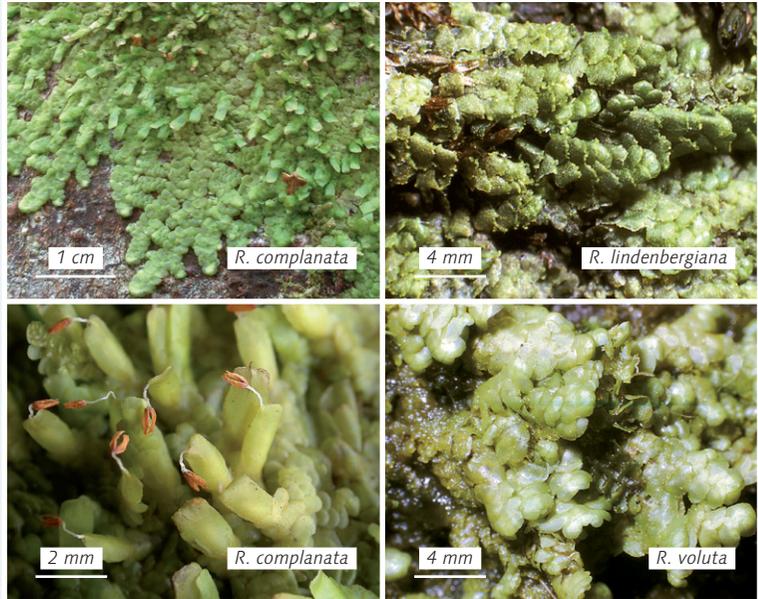
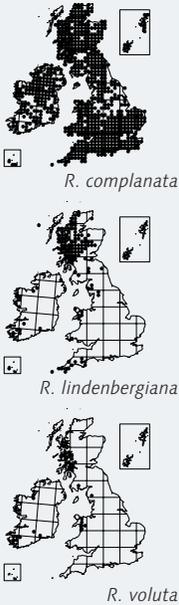


Radula complanata/lindenbergiana/voluta

Even/Lindenberg's/Pale Scalewort

Key 42



Identification

Radula species have rounded, overlapping, bilobed leaves, with the smaller lobule folded underneath. These three species have shoots up to about 3 mm wide, and leaves up to about 1.5 mm long and wide. Plants are usually flattened, either forming patches or scattered stems creeping among mosses. *R. complanata* is pale yellowish-green, and up to 3 cm long. Rounded, sack-like male bracts can be seen with a hand lens on the same shoots as the long, flat perianths. Leaf margins often (but not always) have gemmae. *R. complanata* is by far the most common and widespread *Radula* species. *R. complanata* is monoicous, whereas *R. lindenbergiana* is dioicous; non-fertile plants of these two species cannot be identified to species. However, pale, fertile plants with gemmae, but without sack-shaped male bracts below the perianths are usually *R. lindenbergiana*. *R. voluta* is also pale, but has a larger lobule which crosses the stem, and no gemmae.

Similar species

R. aquilegia, *R. carringtonii* and *R. holtii* (p. 203) are usually brownish-green or grey-green, and are smaller (shoots 1–2.5 mm wide, and leaves less than 1.5 mm long and wide), and hardly ever have gemmae. *R. holtii* is sometimes pale green, but always much smaller (shoots up to 1.8 mm wide). *Radula* species differ from *Scapania* and *Diplophyllum* species (pp. 166–167) in having the smaller lobule underneath and differ from *Porella* (pp. 206–210), *Lejeunea* (pp. 221–223) and *Frullania* species (pp. 211–215) in having no underleaves.

Habitat

R. complanata normally occurs on trees and shrubs anywhere except the highest mountains. It avoids deep shade, but likes sheltered, moist conditions. It also occurs on rocks by streams, lake margins and sea cliffs, when it is darker and usually non-fertile. *R. lindenbergiana* is more common in upland areas, usually on rocks. *R. voluta* grows on shaded, damp rocks, especially near waterfalls.