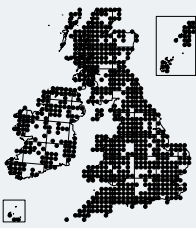
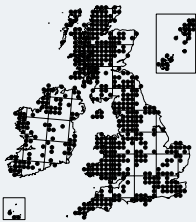
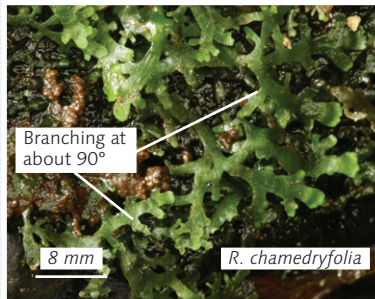


*Riccardia chamedryfolia/multifida*

Jagged/Delicate Germanderwort

Key 16

*R. chamedryfolia**R. multifida**R. multifida**R. chamedryfolia**R. chamedryfolia*

## Identification

It is possible to identify *Riccardia* species provisionally in the field, but it is wise to confirm identification microscopically. The commonest species of unshaded habitats are *R. chamedryfolia* and *R. multifida*, both of which are small, narrow (0.5–2 mm wide), much branched, monoicous liverworts with a characteristically pale brownish-green colour. The branching tends to be at 90°, unlike other liverwort species. In general, *R. multifida* is narrower and more branched than *R. chamedryfolia*, and has plane rather than slightly up-curved margins, but the two species overlap in appearance. Relatively bright green forms of *R. chamedryfolia* that grow submerged on stones in western streams can be confidently identified in the field, but otherwise the distribution of oil bodies should be checked. It is important to check specimens before they dry out, as oil bodies are lost on drying. With a ×20 hand lens and in good light it is possible to discern the thin margin and curved outlines of the marginal cells in *R. multifida*, as well as the oil bodies in all cells.

## Similar species

Two scarcer *Riccardia* species occur in unshaded habitats: *R. incurvata* (Paton, p. 544) is a very narrow and dioicous species, with strongly up-curved margins, and grows on fine, damp sand or gravel, whilst *R. latifrons* (Paton, p. 547) has very wide thalli and forms patches on living or decaying *Sphagnum*. *Aneura pinguis* (p. 241) is brighter green and usually larger. The narrow branches of *Pellia endiviifolia* (p. 237) are normally demonstrably attached to larger thalli.

## Habitat

*R. chamedryfolia* is found in damp turf, wet heath, bogs, streamsides and wooded ravines, and tends to grow on soil or fine gravel; it also grows in rocky streams. *R. multifida* is more characteristic of flushes or wet rock faces. Both are slight lime-lovers.