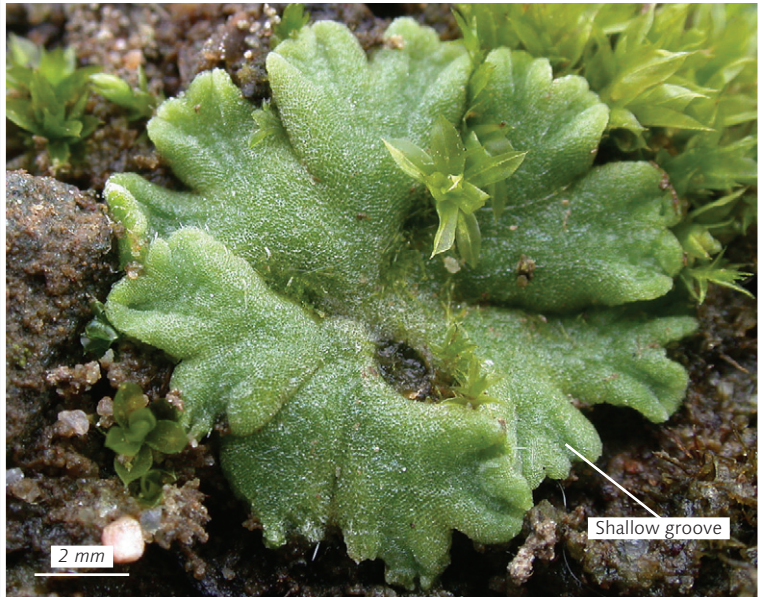
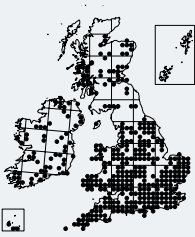


Riccia glauca

Glaucous Crystalwort

Key 14



Identification This species grows in rosettes up to 2 cm or more diameter. The branches are up to 2 mm wide, 4 times broader than long, and bright green or yellowish-green, rarely with reddish pigment. The median groove of the branches is very short, shallow and flat; the thallus spreads and curves downwards to a sharp margin and is not swollen, and is with or without scattered, colourless hairs. The ventral scales are ephemeral and not visible on the margins. Capsules are commonly produced in older parts of the rosettes.

Similar species In arable fields, *R. glauca* is only likely to be confused with *R. sorocarpa* (p. 266) and *R. subbifurca* (p. 268). The margins of *R. sorocarpa* are more or less vertical, whereas those of *R. glauca* are more or less parallel to the ground, and they have a sharp upper angle where they meet the top of the thallus. *R. subbifurca* differs in its narrower thallus branches which are only 1 mm wide, with a distinct, shallow, flat-bottomed median groove, and thallus margins that are swollen and have a rounded edge.

Habitat *R. glauca* is typically found in stubble fields, sometimes with *R. sorocarpa* and *R. subbifurca*, both on acidic and calcareous substrates. It also grows on disturbed soil in a variety of habitats, including coastal cliff tops, mud by lakes and reservoirs, river banks, quarries, gardens, fields of vegetables and bulbs, footpaths and tracks in woodland.