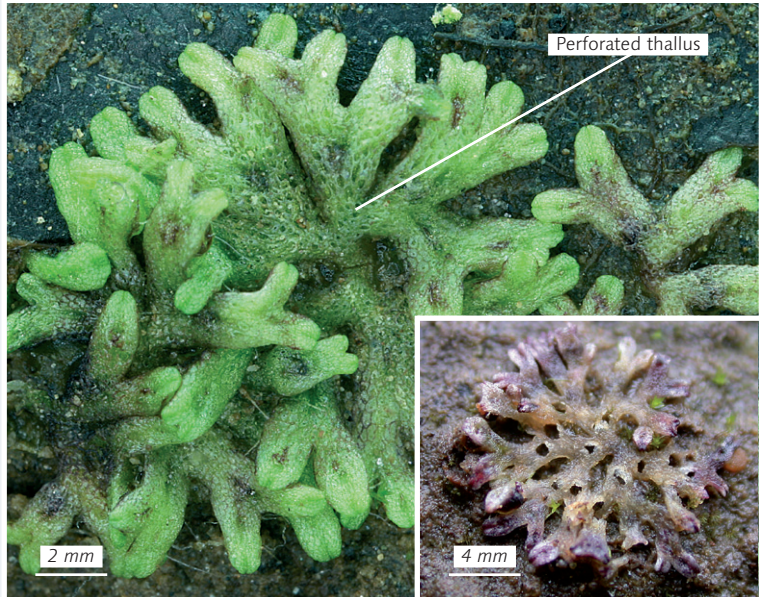
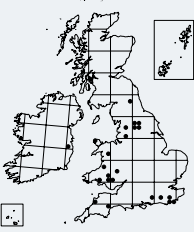


Riccia huebeneriana

Violet Crystalwort



Identification *R. huebeneriana* forms rosettes up to 1 cm diameter, with yellowish-green thalli that are often tinged violet or reddish. The branches are linear or slightly rounded, and widest above the middle, and regularly fork into 2 nearly equal branches or lobes. The upper surface is conspicuously grooved, though this groove becomes shallow and disappears later. Dots (air pores) are visible near the branch tips. Older parts have a perforated surface that becomes spongy near the centre of a rosette. The margins are somewhat swollen. Capsules are prominent underneath older parts of the thalli.

Similar species *R. cavernosa* (p. 263) and *R. crystallina* (p. 262) both differ in their larger size, lack of pigment, and lack of a distinct groove on the upper surface of the thallus branches (they may have a very short groove only at the extreme tip). *R. canaliculata* (p. 265) can be quite similar in its narrow branches, but these never become spongy when old. Terrestrial forms of *Ricciocarpos natans* (p. 260) also lack the spongy, older parts of the thallus.

Habitat Very locally abundant (sometimes millions of plants) on neutral to somewhat acidic, damp mud at the margins of reservoirs, lakes and ponds.