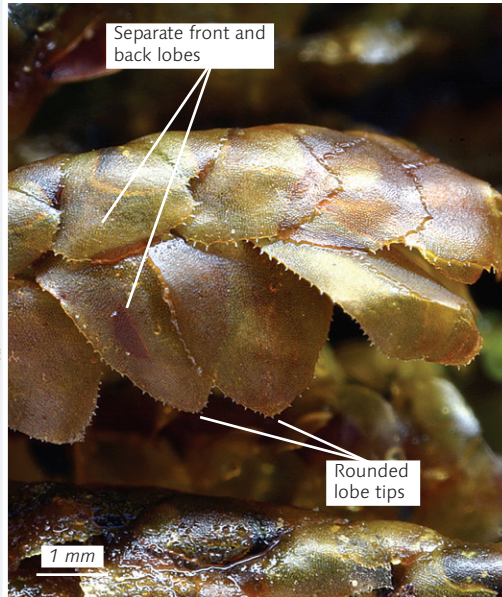
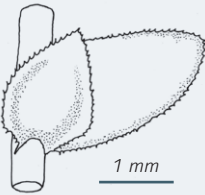
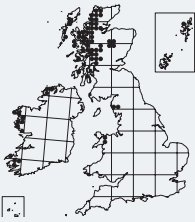


Scapania ornithopodioides

Bird's-foot Earwort



Identification This large (shoots 3–5.5 mm wide and may be several centimetres long), very striking *Scapania* species has separate, tapering front and back lobes that have rounded tips and toothed margins. It is strongly aromatic, and is characteristically liver red, although sometimes it is brown. Leaves are typically 1.5–2.5 mm long.

Similar species The only similar British species is *S. nimbose* (Paton, p. 385), which grows in similar habitats, but is rarer. The lobes of *S. nimbose* are joined at the base with a short keel, whereas those of *S. ornithopodioides* are entirely separate. *S. nimbose* also has longer, characteristically curved teeth on its leaf margins. *Pleurozia purpurea* (p. 201) is of similar size and grows in similar places, but its fat, worm-shaped shoots have untoothed, sack-shaped, concave lobes rather than toothed, more or less flat ones.

Habitat A member of the northern hepatic mat community of large liverworts that occurs on well-drained but very humid, rocky, heathery slopes in north- or north-east-facing corries in the mountains, especially in western Scotland. It is often intermixed with other large liverworts, including *Anastrophyllum* and *Bazzania* species. More rarely, *S. ornithopodioides* grows amongst boulders in wooded valleys or in block scree where snow lies late in the year.