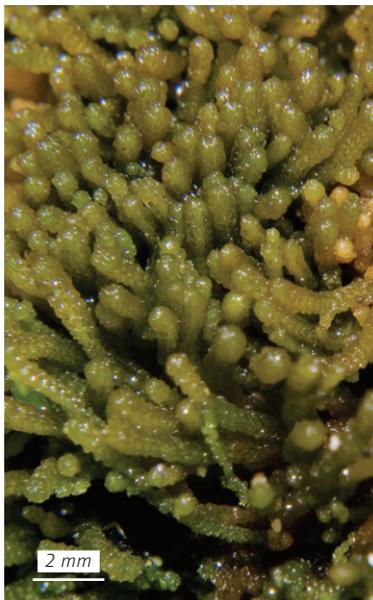


# *Tetralophozia setiformis*

Monster Pawwort



**Identification** This distinctive liverwort has deeply 4-lobed (occasionally 3-lobed or even 2-lobed) leaves, 1–1.5 mm long, with the lobe tips pointing along the shoot, giving plants a 3-dimensional appearance and a resemblance to a stack of stickle bricks. Shoots are up to 1 mm wide, and form loose, interwoven, yellowish-green or brownish mats.

**Similar species** Well-grown colonies with 4-lobed leaves are only likely to be confused with the very rare, lime-loving *Barbilophozia quadriloba* (Paton, p. 166), which grows on wet rocks, is larger (shoots 1–2 mm or more wide), less compact and has much less deeply lobed leaves. Atypical, 2-lobed plants are confusingly like *Anastrophyllum minutum* (p. 132), but have more symmetrical leaves and are so seldom encountered that they are unlikely to pose a problem.

**Habitat** Only frequent in scree beds in the eastern Scottish Highlands. Otherwise found in small quantity in the western Highlands and the Cheviot Hills. *T. setiformis* usually grows on exposed rocks, but is sometimes found tucked into gaps between scree blocks, or in open pine (*Pinus*) forest.