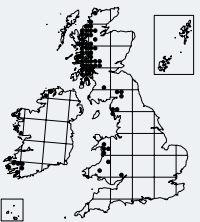
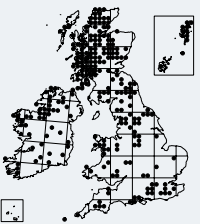


# *Tritomaria exsecta/exsectiformis*

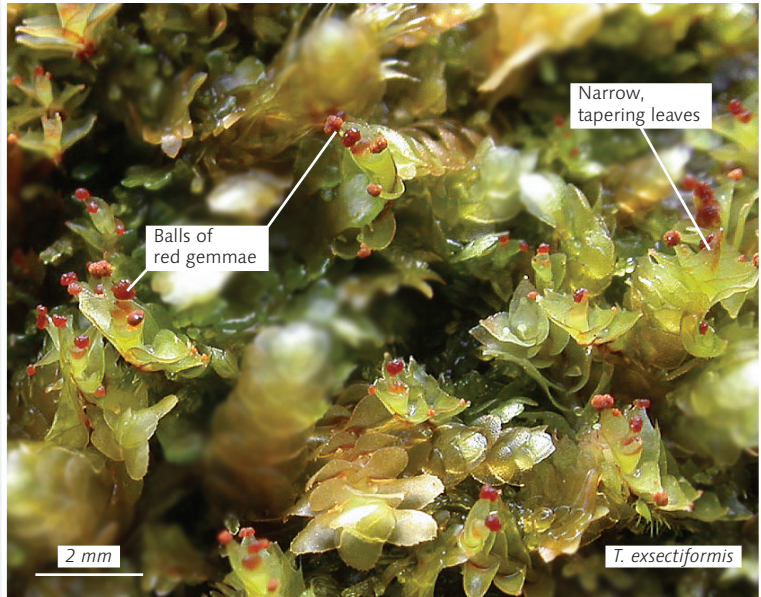
Cut/Large Cut Notchwort



*T. exsecta*



*T. exsectiformis*



## Identification

These two species look very different from other liverworts, but are too similar to each other to be differentiated in the field. Both have narrow, asymmetrical leaves that taper to a single, long point with a notch at its tip, and have another prong on the front margin. As well as this unusual leaf shape, conspicuous balls of orange or red gemmae occur near the tip of the bright green shoots. Both species tend to lie flat on a substrate, often mixed with other liverwort species. Under a microscope, *T. exsecta* has smooth gemmae, compared with angular gemmae in *T. exsectiformis*, and *T. exsecta* has smaller leaf cells. Shoots are 0.5–3 mm wide, with leaves up to 1 mm wide and 1.8 mm long.

## Similar species

Readily recognizable in the field as one or other of the two species. Other gemmiferous liverworts that share the habitat of *T. exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* include *Lophozia excisa* (p. 120), *L. longidens* (p. 118) and *L. bicrenata* (p. 121), which have symmetrical leaves; *Scapania umbrosa* (p. 171), with 2 differently sized, pointed leaf lobes and down-curved shoots; and *Barbilophozia attenuata* (p. 111), *Anastrophyllum hellerianum* (p. 133) and *Odontoschisma denudatum* (p. 103), which bear their gemmae on attenuated shoots.

## Habitat

*T. exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* are frequent members of the liverwort flora of decaying, rotting logs, usually with *Nowellia curvifolia* and often with a wide range of other liverworts. In most of their range, *T. exsectiformis* is the standard species and *T. exsecta* is rarer. Both species are occasionally found on peat, the trunks of oaks and other trees, or organic matter on boulders.