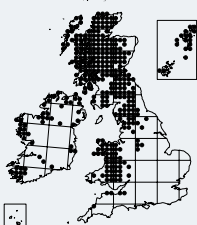


Tritomaria quinquedentata

Lyon's Notchwort

Key 59



Identification This bright green or sometimes brownish plant is one of our larger leafy liverworts (shoots 1–4 mm wide), and, once its distinctive leaf shape is learnt, soon becomes a familiar friend in the uplands. The key feature on the leaves is the very long, curved back edge, which means that the 3 sharply pointed leaf lobes are pushed forwards towards the observer. The leaf shape is constant, both on creeping plants appressed to a base-rich rock face, and on upright ones growing through mosses on the side of a gorge. Leaves are up to 1.8 mm wide and 1.6 mm long. Green gemmae are often present, although seldom prominent; underleaves are absent. The stem is normally brown or red on its undersurface, contrasting with a green upper surface.

Similar species *Barbilophozia* species (pp. 111–114) have symmetrical leaves and tend to be browner or more orange rather than the typical bright green of *T. quinquedentata*, whilst *Anastrepta orcadensis* (p. 115) has 2-lobed, convex leaves and is very pale green. The very common *Lophozia ventricosa* (p. 116) is green (like *T. quinquedentata*) but is more slender, with bilobed leaves. The scarce *T. polita* (p. 137) has symmetrical leaves.

Habitat A frequent species in northern and western Britain, especially on base-rich ground. It favours humid, sheltered sites and is most frequent among other bryophytes on steep, mossy slopes in Atlantic woodlands or on hillsides. Other favoured habitats include base-rich rock faces on crags or in gorges, and hummocks in calcareous flushes. More rarely it grows on rotting logs, on gravelly river banks, in *Sphagnum* bogs or in sand dunes.