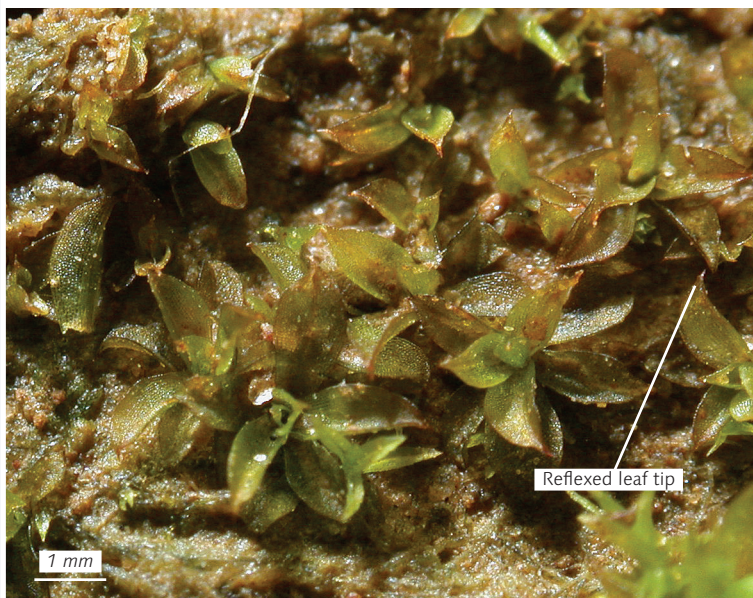
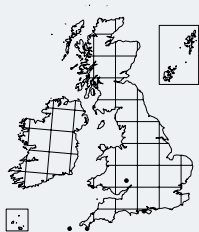


Leptophascum leptophyllum

Chenia leptophylla

Vectis-moss



Identification Green to brownish-green, scattered, unbranched plants or small patches up to 3 mm in height. Leaves are 2 mm long, spreading to recurved with a reflexed tip composed of excurrent nerve. The leaves become broadest in the upper half of the leaf and then rapidly narrow to an acute tip. The cell walls of the outermost couple of layers of marginal cells are thickened and browner, giving the impression of a thickened margin under a hand lens. It has abundant, brownish, irregular tubers on the rhizoids. Capsules are unknown in this country.

Similar species *Tortula truncata* (p. 482) is a much commoner plant of similar habitats. It is often found fruiting and its leaves lack the brownish-green colour, reflexed tip and appearance of thickening of the border. *T. truncata* lacks rhizoidal tubers, although the similar *T. modica* (p. 483) does have them. *Henediella* species (pp. 490–491) have leaves of similar shape, but these are opaque and brighter green, with a more clearly toothed tip, and the point at the leaf tip is broader, and neither reflexed nor composed mainly of nerve. *Henediella* species are also usually somewhat larger than *L. leptophyllum*.

Habitat A rare, usually coastal ephemeral moss of arable fields and beside paths in southern England.