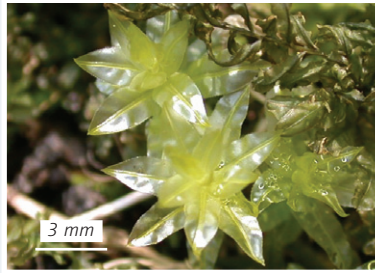
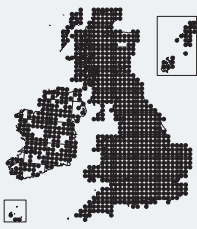


*Plagiomnium undulatum*

Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss

Key 158



General note about  
*Plagiomnium*  
species

All *Plagiomnium* species have greenish stems without red or brown pigments. The leaves are bordered by long, narrow cells, and usually toothed (although the teeth may be absent on some shoots).

Identification

When well-grown, this is a striking and unmistakable moss with tongue-shaped, undulate leaves 2–5 mm long. Its stems may be tall (up to 15 cm long) and branched, like a tiny tree. The leaf base runs down onto the stem. However, stunted forms are much less distinctive, with shorter and scarcely undulate leaves. In spring, shoots with immature, pointed leaves, can also be confused with other species. Difficult forms can be identified by the leaf cells, which are much smaller than in other *Plagiomnium* species, and hardly longer than wide. With a little experience, or if other species are present for comparison, this can be appreciated in the field with a 20 hand lens. Capsules are infrequent, but occasionally produced in abundance, with several growing from one shoot. They are 5 mm long, and borne on a seta 3 cm tall.

Similar species

Other species of *Plagiomnium* (pp. 619–623) have non-undulate leaves with larger cells. *Atrichum undulatum* (p. 330) is superficially similar in having undulate leaves, but differs in the pointed leaves, the presence of teeth on the back of the nerve, and the presence of longitudinally arranged plates of tissue on the upper surface of the nerve.

Habitat

Common on base-rich or neutral soil in woodland, grassland and on rocky banks, occasionally in flushes.