**Plagiochila spinulosa**

**Saccogyna viticulosa**

Confusion species

With upper margin smooth

Key characteristics 1

Habitat

- Plagiochila punctata

- Jubula hutchinsiae

- Frullania species

- Bazzania tricrenata

- Greater whipwort

- Hutchins’ hollywort

- Long flagella protruding from underside of stem (sometimes inconspicuous in dense colonies)

- Colour of colonies yellowish green

- Leaf tip with 2-4 (normally 3) teeth

- Leaf base runs down onto stem for a short distance.

- Leaves coarsely toothed around lower margin and tip, and with far rarer.

- Leaves in opposite pairs and without marginal teeth.

- Leaves very deeply bi-lobed, each leaf appearing to be two separate leaves

- Upper leaf lobes semi-erect, giving a ‘3D’ appearance

- Other species. Reddish coloured and leaves not toothed.

- Leaves coarsely toothed around lower margin and tip, and with

- Leaves with lobe beneath.

- Leaves with fine teeth around the margins.

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Finding and identifying mosses and liverworts

Mosses have relatively simple structures in comparison to other bryophytes. Most mosses are green and small, usually less than 5 cm in height, and can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from damp forests to dry grasslands. They are characterized by their ability to live in acidic environments and their ability to hold water in their spongy tissues. Mosses have a simple life cycle with spores that develop into gametophytes, which grow to form the familiar recognizable moss form. They are divided into two main groups: the Sphagnaceae (bog mosses) and the Polytrichaceae (habitat mosses). The bryophytes in these families have a wide variety of shapes and sizes, so it can sometimes be difficult to identify them. In this section, we shall look at some of the more common mosses and liverworts, attempting to provide the tools needed to identify "good" and potentially important bryophyte habitat. It looks at some of the more common species, as well as those that are characteristic or indicative of good Atlantic woodland.

What are mosses and liverworts?

Mosses and liverworts are both bryophytes, which are a group of plants that include mosses, liverworts, and hornworts. They are small, often green, and often found in wet or shady environments. Mosses are characterized by their ability to hold water in their spongy tissues, which allows them to grow in environments that are too acidic for most other plants. Liverworts are similar to mosses but are distinguished by their ability to produce both male and female gametes on the same individual, whereas mosses produce them on separate individuals. Liverworts are also characterized by the presence of two rows of leaves, one above the other, which is not found in mosses. The difference between mosses and liverworts is in their structure – mosses mainly have leaves all around the stem, whereas liverworts generally have two rows of leaves, one above the other. This difference is what makes them easy to distinguish from each other.

Atlantic woodlands

Atlantic woodlands are natural or semi-natural woodlands found on the western coast of Britain and Ireland, where the climate is oceanic and mild and wet due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. They are characterized by the presence of a number of species that are rare, both in Europe and globally, some of which are listed on the NERC Act. This diversity includes a number of species that are important for the quality of the habitat and play an important role in making the Atlantic woodlands of western Britain an important bryophyte habitat. It looks at some of the more common species, as well as those that are characteristic or indicative of good Atlantic woodland.

Why are the Lake District's Atlantic woodlands so important for mosses and liverworts?

The unique and diverse habitat of the Lake District's Atlantic woodlands is what makes them so important for mosses and liverworts. The woodlands are characterized by a variety of species that are rare, both in Europe and globally, some of which are listed on the NERC Act. This diversity includes a number of species that are important for the quality of the habitat and play an important role in making the Atlantic woodlands of western Britain an important bryophyte habitat. It looks at some of the more common species, as well as those that are characteristic or indicative of good Atlantic woodland.

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