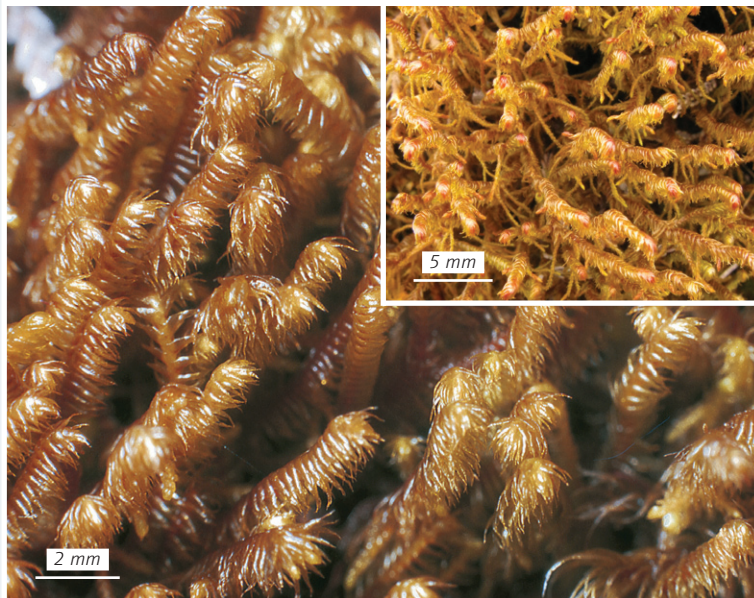
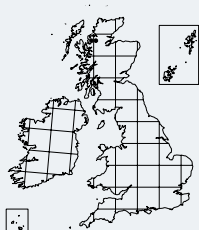


*Herbertus borealis**H. delavayi*

Northern Prongwort



Identification *H. borealis* is robust, up to 20 cm tall, and forms extensive, colourful, yellowish, orange or brown mats. Its leaves are 1.5–2 mm long, asymmetrical, with sharply pointed leaf lobes that curve strongly and regularly to one side, and broad, overlapping leaf bases which hide the stem. Conspicuous, slender, small-leaved branches spread from the underside of the stems. Fertile plants are unknown.

Similar species *H. aduncus* (p. 75) differs in often being more reddish, having leaves with a narrower base and more finely pointed lobes which spread horizontally and less tidily. *H. stramineus* (p. 74) is smaller, up to 10 cm tall, usually dirty brown, and its leaves are more erect, with shorter points that spread somewhat, but not horizontally.

Habitat This very rare species is locally frequent in its only locality, in north-west Scotland. It grows in rocky, acidic, montane dwarf shrub heaths on north- to north-east-facing slopes, alongside other large liverworts such as *Anastrophyllum donnianum*, *Bazzania tricrenata* and *Pleurozia purpurea*.