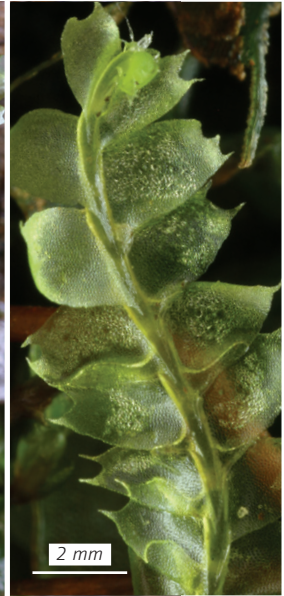
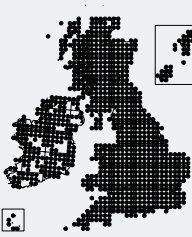


# *Lophocolea bidentata*

Bifid Crestwort

Key 46



**Identification** *L. bidentata* is delicate and translucent, pale green, with conspicuously bilobed leaves (about 2 mm long). Shoots are 2–4 mm wide, and may grow several centimetres long. Its leaf lobes are long and drawn out into a narrow point. The underleaves are also bilobed, with an additional lateral tooth on each side. It is strongly aromatic, and often fertile, with toothed perianths.

**Similar species** *L. heterophylla* (p. 184) has the upper leaves entire or only slightly notched. *L. fragrans* (p. 186) has less clearly bilobed leaves with sharply pointed teeth. *Lophozia* species (pp. 116–122) lack underleaves and often have green or reddish gemmae at the shoot tips. *Leiocolea* species (pp. 123–128) tend to be darker, and often with rather short, blunt leaf lobes. *Cephalozia* species (pp. 92–96) are much smaller and lack underleaves. Several other, less common, liverworts have similarly bilobed leaves, including *Harpanthus scutatus* (p. 189), with unlobed underleaves. *L. bispinosa* (Paton, p. 392) is an uncommon (though probably spreading) species that looks at first sight more like a species of *Cephalozia*, being small and delicate. *Calyptogeia arguta* (p. 90) has much less deeply bilobed leaves, and *Lophozia ventricosa* (p. 116) lacks underleaves; both these species produce abundant gemmae and neither is aromatic.

**Habitat** Probably the commonest leafy liverwort in the British Isles, occurring in a wide range of habitats: on the ground in woodland, grassland and heathland, and also on other plants and rocks.