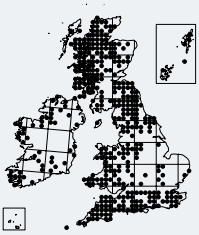
Cephalozia lunulifolia

Moon-leaved Pincerwort

Key 53



Identification *C. lunulifolia* is mid-green, with shoots 0.2–0.6 mm wide and leaves less than 0.5 mm long and wide that are obliquely to longitudinally inserted and run down onto the stem. They are divided to less than half their length, and usually have a moon-shaped indentation between the 2 lobes. It can be highly gemmiferous. *C. lunulifolia* is dioicous; the female bracts are usually untoothed, and cells at the mouth of the perianth are only minutely bulging.

Similar species *C. catenulata* (Paton, p. 102) is dioicous (like *C. lunulifolia*) and grows on the same substrates, usually in humid woodlands. It is characteristically brownish and more opaque, with obliquely inserted leaves that become (sub)transversely arranged near the stem tip. When present, the toothed female bracts and finely toothed and lobed perianth mouth are also distinctive. Shoots of *C. catenulata* may be smaller (0.2–0.4 mm wide) than those of *C. lunulifolia*, with smaller leaves (0.25 mm long and wide). The rare *C. hibernica* (*C. crassifolia*) (Paton, p. 115) occurs in similar habitats, but is restricted to a few sites in Ireland. It has longitudinally inserted, large-celled leaves, with lobes that end in rows of 2–3 cells, and its stems have a noticeable central strand. It is dioicous, like *C. lunulifolia*, but the lobes of its perianth mouth consist of a row of several cells. *C. bicuspidata* (p. 92) and *C. connivens* (p. 94) differ in having male and female shoots arising from the same stem; *C. connivens* also has larger leaf cells. *C. macrostachya* (Paton, p. 104) is often dioicous, but has more opaque stems than *C. lunulifolia* and is usually brown or orange. It often has channelled leaves, toothed female bracts and a fringed perianth mouth.

Habitat Although most frequent in woodland, and characteristic of rotting logs and stumps, *C. lunulifolia* also extends into more open habitats, including rocky hill slopes, peatlands and heathy ground, where it is usually found on peaty substrates. However, *C. lunulifolia* may also occur occasionally on acidic rock faces and in bogs.

Photos Christine Rieser (left) & Sam Bosanquet (right) Text Tim Blackstock