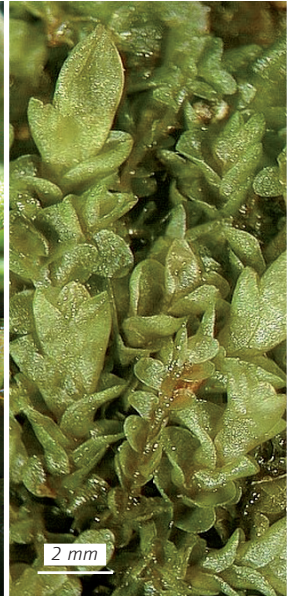
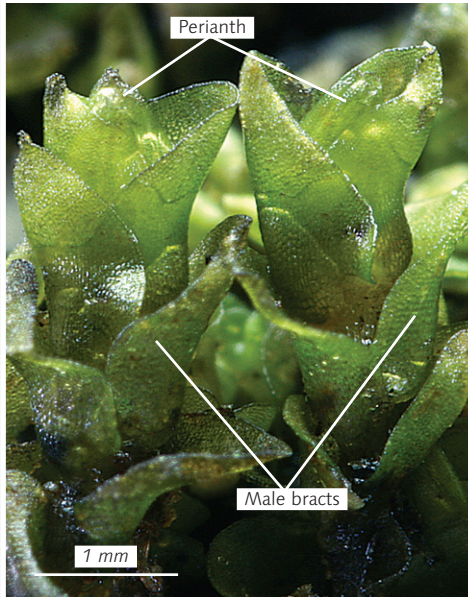
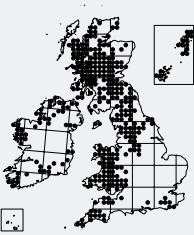


Jungermannia pumila

Dwarf Flapwort

Key 73



Identification *J. pumila* is similar in size and appearance to *J. atrovirens*: a small- to medium-sized (shoots 0.5–2 mm wide), usually rather dingy green plant with leaves up to 1 mm wide and long. It is monoicous and careful examination of plants with perianths will reveal 2 or 3 pairs of dilated, sack-shaped male bracts below the single pair of female bracts. The perianth lacks bracts halfway up its outside and is gradually contracted to the mouth; the rhizoids are colourless. It is not aromatic.

Similar species Readily recognized as a *Jungermannia* by its small size, entire leaves and dingy green colour. Three other fairly common monoicous *Jungermannia* species can be confused with *J. pumila*. *J. paroica* (p. 149) and *J. obovata* (p. 150) have perigynia and purple rhizoids. *J. sphaerocarpa* (p. 146) has distinctive, cross-shaped crimping on the perianth mouth and almost circular leaves. *J. atrovirens* (p. 143) is dioicous and aromatic. *J. polaris* (Paton, p. 269) differs subtly in features of its perianth. It is rare on base-rich ground in the Scottish mountains.

Habitat *J. pumila* is common in western Britain, but frequently overlooked. It grows in similar places to *J. atrovirens*, but is less lime-loving, although the two species often occur at the same sites. *J. pumila* usually grows on damp rock – on cliffs, low rock outcrops in woodland or low down on rock faces by rivers – or sometimes on soil. It can also be found in more open places, including sandstone pebbles in flushes and on the shaded side of boulders.