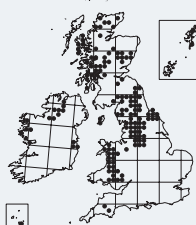


*Jungermannia sphaerocarpa**Solenostoma sphaerocarpum*

Round-fruited Flapwort

Key 73



**Identification** The winged and beaked perianth of *J. sphaerocarpa* is shared only by the rare *J. confertissima* and the common, but dioicous *J. gracillima*, and provides the most obvious feature for identification of this bright to dull green, medium-sized *Jungermannia*; indeed only fertile plants can be named. It is monoicous, and the perianth lacks bracts half-way up its outside. The almost circular leaves are distinctive, and the rhizoids are colourless (or rarely purple). Shoots are 0.5–2 mm wide, with leaves 0.5–1 mm long and wide.

**Similar species** The only other relatively common *Jungermannia* with a winged perianth is *J. gracillima* (p. 147), which is dioicous, usually shows some red pigmentation and almost always has leaves conspicuously bordered by thickened cells. Monoicous species of *Jungermannia* – *J. pumila* (p. 144), *J. paroica* (p. 149) and *J. obovata* (p. 150) – have unwinged perianths; *J. paroica* and *J. obovata* have perianths with bracts half-way up their outside; and *J. pumila* and *J. paroica* have more pointed leaves. *J. confertissima* (*Solenostoma confertissimum*) (Paton, p. 277) is lighter in colour, sometimes has purple-red perianths, and is very rare in damp, calcareous places in the mountains, especially on limestone or schists.

**Habitat** Widespread and moderately common in upland areas of northern and western Britain. It is most often found on damp, gritty ledges by streams in gullies or on cliff ledges. Sandstone and shale are favoured, and *J. sphaerocarpa* is rarely found on limestone.