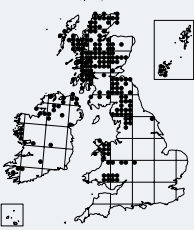


Leiocolea bantriensis

Bantry Notchwort



Identification *L. bantriensis* has pale green or brownish, rather translucent shoots, 2.5–4 mm wide, that often lie flat on cushions of pleurocarpous mosses. They have widely based, quite square, bilobed, obtusely pointed leaves, 2–2.5 mm wide and long. Like the smaller *L. alpestris*, it is dioicous, scented, lacks gemmae and has underleaves. It differs in having a longer leaf base that runs down the front of the stem, and in being consistently larger (almost the size of *Chiloscyphus pallescens*, p. 187).

Similar species Apart from *L. alpestris* (p. 125), this species can be confused with two rarer liverworts of uplands: *L. gillmanii* (Paton, p. 218) and *L. fitzgeraldiae* (Paton, p. 221). The ecologically similar, but mostly Scottish *L. gillmanii* differs in being monoicous, as does the very rare *L. rutheana* (p. 123). *L. fitzgeraldiae* has even more translucent leaves than *L. bantriensis*, owing to larger cells, and has irregularly toothed leaf margins. The leaves of *L. bantriensis* and *L. alpestris* are untoothed, although the bracts may sometimes have teeth. *Chiloscyphus pallescens* (p. 187) is unscented and its leaves are very shallowly lobed or have rounded tips. The montane *Harpanthus fotovianus* (Paton, p. 405) has large, entire underleaves and a narrow notch to its leaves. *Tritomaria polita* (p. 137) is of similar size to *L. bantriensis*, but has 3-lobed leaves.

Habitat Calcareous flushes in the uplands, and fens in the lowlands are typical habitats of *L. bantriensis* and it is more restricted to permanently wet sites than *L. alpestris*. It can also grow on wet soil or other bryophytes on ledges, or on wet, vertical rock faces.