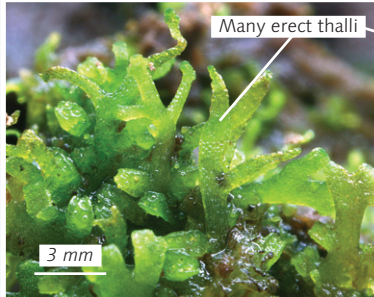
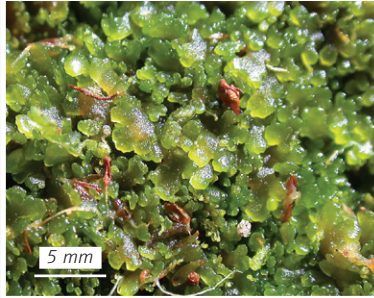
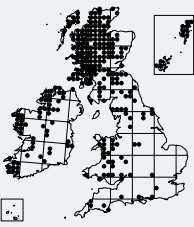


Riccardia palmata

Palmate Germanderwort



Identification Unlike our other four *Riccardia* species, *R. palmata* is readily recognizable in the field. Its much-branched thalli, with 0.5 mm wide branches, carpet rotting logs, sticking up from them like crowds of tiny, dull green hands. *R. palmata* is dioicous.

Similar species This is the only *Riccardia* that frequently grows on logs, but the monoicous *R. latifrons* (Paton, p. 547) is sometimes found on them. It is usually paler green and has wider, less branched thalli.

Habitat Characteristic of rotting logs in humid woodland in the north and west, although sometimes found on peat in the wettest parts of Britain. *R. palmata* is bizarrely rare and unpredictable at many seemingly suitable sites, where it may only occur on a single carpeted log.