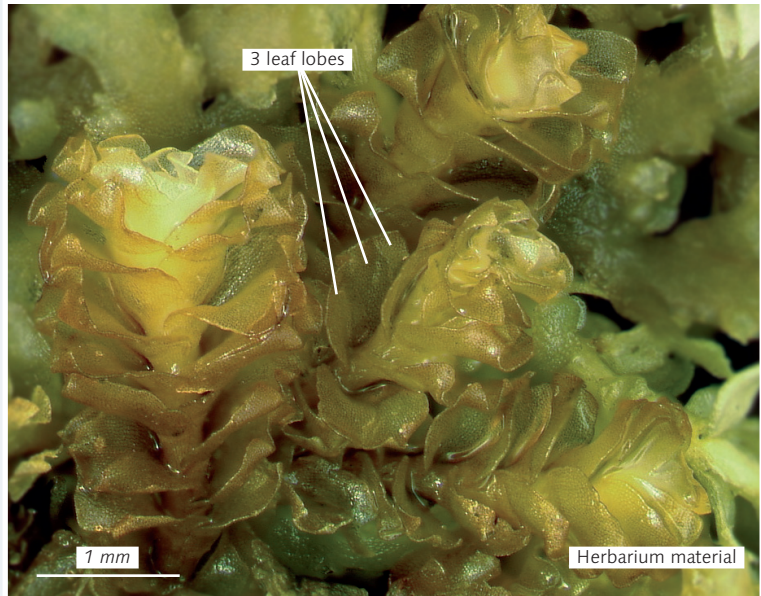
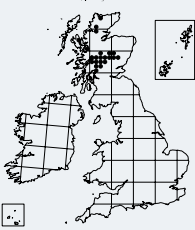


Tritomaria polita

Flush Notchwort



Identification A large (2–3 cm long and 1–3 mm wide), but puzzling plant that looks intermediate between *T. quinquedentata* and a *Barbilophozia*. It is usually bright green, like *T. quinquedentata*, and has 3-lobed leaves that are a little over 1.5 mm wide and inserted obliquely on the front of the stem, with rather blunt lobes and relatively shallow notches. Underleaves and gemmae are absent.

Similar species The characteristic, asymmetrical leaves of *T. quinquedentata* (p. 136) distinguish it immediately. *Barbilophozia* species (pp. 111–114) have more acute leaf lobes, usually have underleaves, and are not generally as bright green as *T. polita*. *Leiocolea bantriensis* (p. 124) often grows in the same flushes as *T. polita*, has bilobed leaves, and is usually pale green.

Habitat *T. polita* is quite common and prominent on mica-schist in the Breadalbane Mountains of central Scotland, but otherwise rare. It is mainly found in or by calcareous flushes, either growing on other bryophytes or on damp stones or peat. It is less frequent on damp crags, especially at the base or on gravelly ledges.