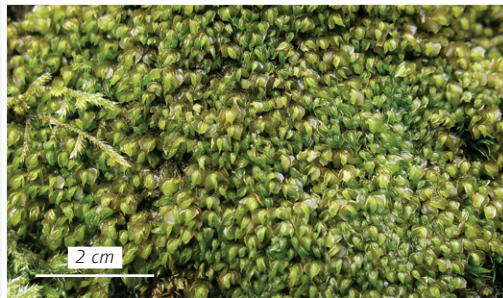
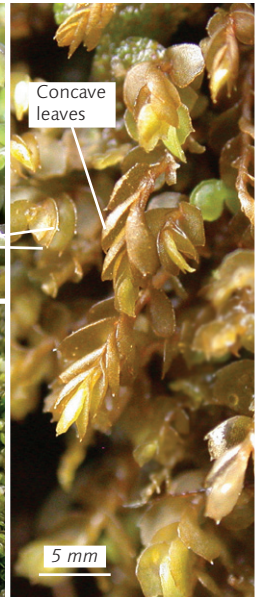
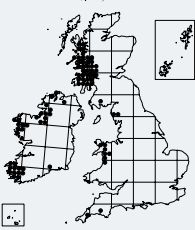


Adelanthus decipiens

Deceptive Featherwort



Identification Loose cushions of this medium-sized (shoots to about 3 cm long and 3 mm wide), shiny, brown, green or almost black liverwort grow on the sides of boulders in humid woodland. They are similar in size to several *Plagiochila* species, but are unusual in having concave leaves that are tipped with 2 small teeth. Leaves are up to about 2 mm wide, and those near the shoot tips tend to be closely pressed together.

Similar species *Plagiochila* species (pp. 192–199) have convex leaves (when viewed from above). The very rare *A. lindenbergianus* (Paton, p. 93), which is restricted to rocky slopes in western Ireland and a single site on Islay, is the only other British leafy liverwort with concave, similar-sized leaves. It differs in having abundant teeth on its leaf margins and one inrolled leaf margin.

Habitat *A. decipiens* is a scarce species of very humid, rocky woodland or boulder-covered slopes in western Britain and Ireland. It usually grows on dry rock faces, but is occasionally found growing at or near the bottom of tree trunks, or on decaying logs and stumps. Some sites support large colonies, but it is generally very uncommon.