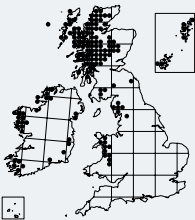
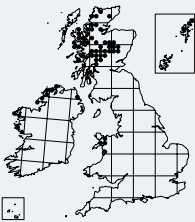
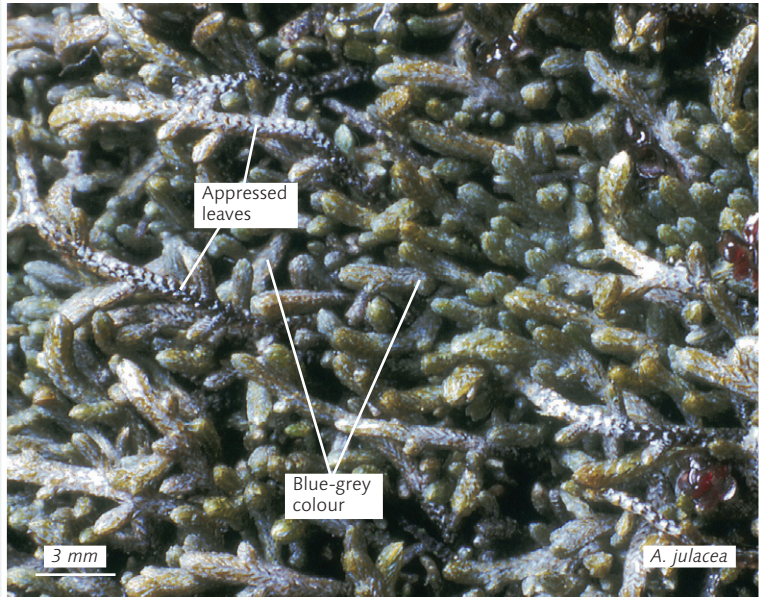


Anthelia julacea/juratzkana

Alpine/Scarce Silverwort

*A. julacea**A. juratzkana*

Identification

The pale blue-grey colour makes patches of *Anthelia* among the most distinctive liverworts of British uplands. Shoots are up to 0.5 mm wide, and a hand lens will reveal 3 rows of deeply bilobed leaves, with their sharp points appressed to the stem. Fertile parts are about twice the width of non-fertile stems. The dioicous *A. julacea* is much commoner than the monoicous *A. juratzkana*, although the latter can be frequent on some Scottish mountains. Useful field differences are that *A. julacea* has no rhizoids on its stems, whereas they are abundant on the underside of the stems of *A. juratzkana*, and *A. juratzkana* shoots are shorter than 1 cm, whereas those of *A. julacea* can be up to 4 cm long. Both species have thread-like branches.

Similar species

No other British liverwort is both blue-grey and has 3 rows of deeply bilobed leaves. *Eremonotus myriocarpus* (p. 130) has leaves of similar shape, but in 2 rows and it is not blue-grey. The colour of *Anthelia* is approached by some *Gymnomitrium* species (pp. 162–164), but they have 2 rows of shallowly bilobed leaves that entirely hide the stem.

Habitat

The more widespread *A. julacea* can be locally dominant on flushed, acidic rocks or in peaty flushes, colouring large areas silver. It also grows on wet crags, streamsides and where snow lies late in the year. *A. juratzkana* often occurs on solifluction terraces near late-lying snowbeds on mountain tops. Otherwise, it can be locally frequent on damp faces of north-facing crags, or on quite base-rich soil.