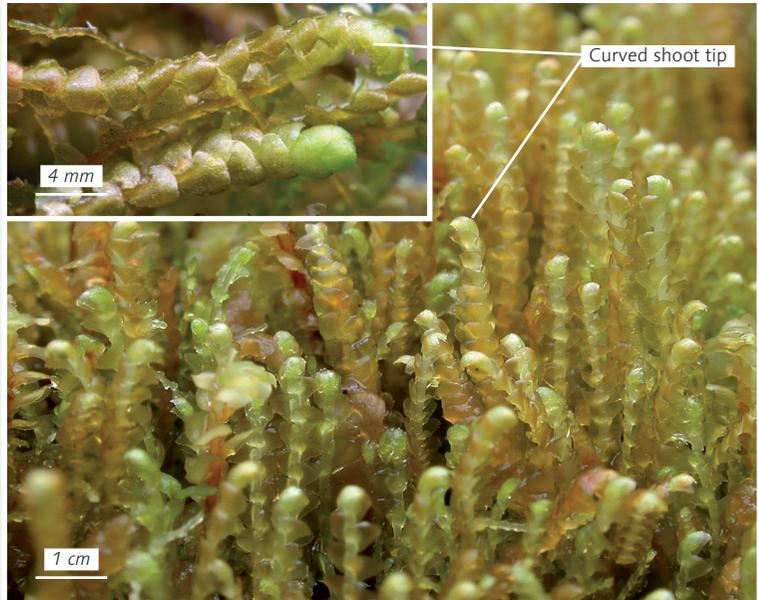
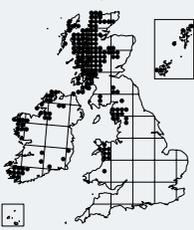


Bazzania tricrenata

Lesser Whipwort



Identification This slender *Bazzania* species shares the broad-based, 3-toothed leaf shape of *B. trilobata*, but has shoots only one-third the width (up to 2 mm wide). It grows as loose patches of upright shoots, often with the tip curved over, and is typically orange, although it may be pale green or brownish. Each leaf is approximately 1 mm wide and long. Like *B. trilobata*, it usually has thread-like branches sticking out from the underside of the stems, between a row of widely spaced, short, shallowly toothed underleaves.

Similar species Unusually slender plants of *B. trilobata* (p. 82) can be confused with *B. tricrenata*, but they have underleaves with toothed margins and blunter-tipped leaves. The scarce *B. pearsonii* (Paton, p. 75), which is almost restricted to the north-west Highlands, has underleaves that are noticeably longer than wide and overlap near the shoot tip, whereas those of *B. tricrenata* are wider than long and scarcely overlap. *Lepidozia cupressina* (p. 81) has densely packed leaves with 4 teeth, and grows as pinnate shoots.

Habitat This is less of a woodland plant than *B. trilobata* and is most often found on steep, rocky, heather-covered slopes in mountainous parts of Britain. It also grows on cliff ledges and at the foot of crags, in boulder fields and, occasionally, among boulders in woodland.