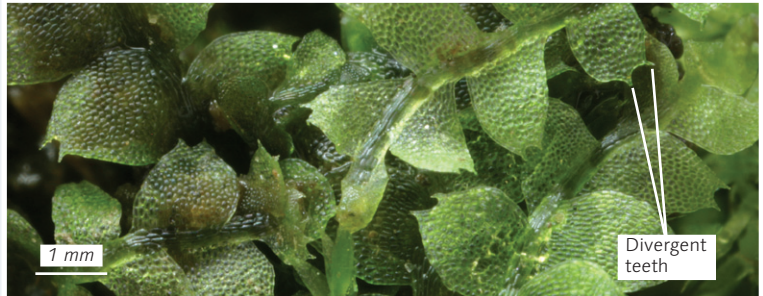
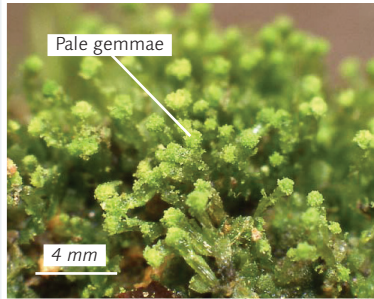
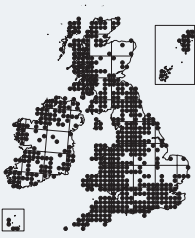


Calypogeia arguta

Notched Pouchwort

Key 52, 77



Identification

Like other common species of *Calypogeia*, shoots of *C. arguta* are a paler green than most other leafy liverworts. They are also similarly flat, although they are more slender (1–2.5 mm wide) than *C. fissa* or *C. muelleriana*. Each leaf is about 1.2 mm long and 1 mm wide. Its unique feature is the pair of small, divergent teeth at the tip of each leaf: something not shared by any other British liverwort. The leaves are usually well-spaced along the shoots and tend to be reduced in size towards the shoot tip, which often ends in a mass of very pale gemmae. These gemmae are eye-catching and may be the first thing seen in the dark nooks and crannies favoured by *C. arguta*.

Similar species

Thanks to its unique leaf tips, *C. arguta* is easily recognized. *C. fissa* (p. 85) has notches in its leaf tips, but they do not have divergent teeth. Slender plants of *Lophocolea bidentata* (p. 183) can look similar, but have more deeply divided leaf tips and are strikingly pungent.

Habitat

A very common species in western Britain, especially in woodland and on lane banks. It grows on acidic soil – particularly on vertical clay or on crumbly areas under overhangs – as well as on acidic rock faces. It is sometimes found in marshy grassland or on bogs, especially on the sides of purple moor-grass (*Molinia*) tussocks.