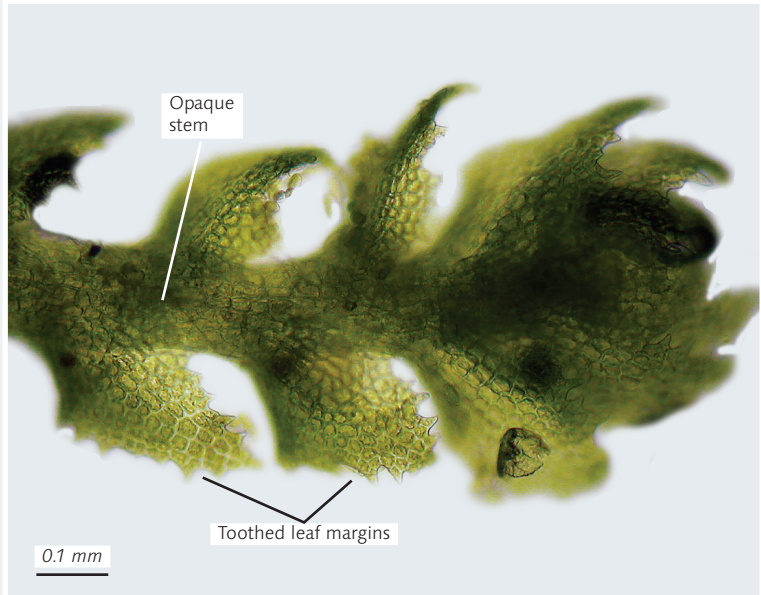
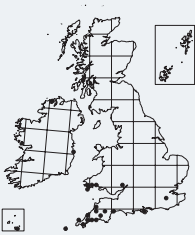


Cephaloziella turneri

Turner's Threadwort



Identification This is one of our most beautiful liverworts and finding it is always a thrill. Its leaves are about 0.25 mm long, and have 2 slightly unequal-sized lobes, each armed with many teeth that are clearly visible through a hand lens. Its slender (less than 0.5 mm wide), green shoots creep among small mosses or sometimes form dense little patches, and are often tipped with pale gemmae.

Similar species Two rarer threadworts, each preferring very different habitats, have teeth that are as prominent as those of *C. turneri*. Mineral-rich spoil supports *C. nicholsonii* (Paton, p. 152), which has symmetrical leaves; winter-wet soil overlying serpentine holds *C. dentata* (Paton, p. 152), which is larger, reddish-brown and has longer leaf lobes. Small plants of *Diplophyllum albicans* (p. 166) have vaguely similar, asymmetrical leaves, but these are untoothed and blunt-tipped.

Habitat Knowing the typical habitat of *C. turneri* is usually the key to finding it. It is most frequent on steep, crumbly, acidic soil among tree roots overhanging coastal creeks in south-west Britain. *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Dicranella heteromalla* and *Ditrichum subulatum* are typical associates. Otherwise, it grows on lane banks or ditchesides, usually in light shade.