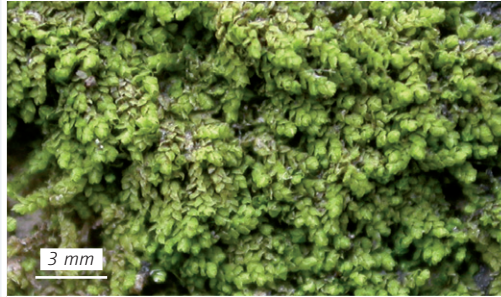
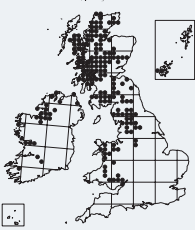


*Cololejeunea calcarea*

Rock Pouncewort



**Identification** This very small (shoots up to 5 mm long and 0.25–0.7 mm wide), bright yellow-green leafy liverwort grows in small patches. Individual shoots are often not discernible without close examination. The leaves are minute (less than 0.5 mm long or wide), pointed at the tip, with an inflated lobule. There are no underleaves.

**Similar species** The combination of habitat, pointed leaves, and small, dense patches usually identifies a specimen as either *C. calcarea* or the considerably rarer (except in south-west England) *C. rosettiana* (Paton, p. 506). *C. rosettiana* may not be distinguishable in the field, but usually forms denser patches, where the individual shoots are even less discernible, and is more inclined to grow on other bryophytes. These two species are easily distinguishable under a microscope, and as they may share a site it is often worth collecting tiny samples from several patches. *C. minutissima* (p. 226) has shorter, rounded, leaves and usually grows on bark. *Aphanolejeunea microscopica* (p. 227) has well-spaced out leaves that are oval. Other small, related species have underleaves. *Drepanolejeunea* (p. 218) and *Harpalejeunea* (p. 219) can be similar, but form thinner patches, have underleaves and are not closely tied to base-rich substrates.

**Habitat** A strict lime-lover, *C. calcarea* grows on shaded limestone or other base-rich rock, usually dry or only slightly damp, and often growing on other bryophytes, such as *Marchesinia mackaii* or *Thamnobryum alopecurum*.