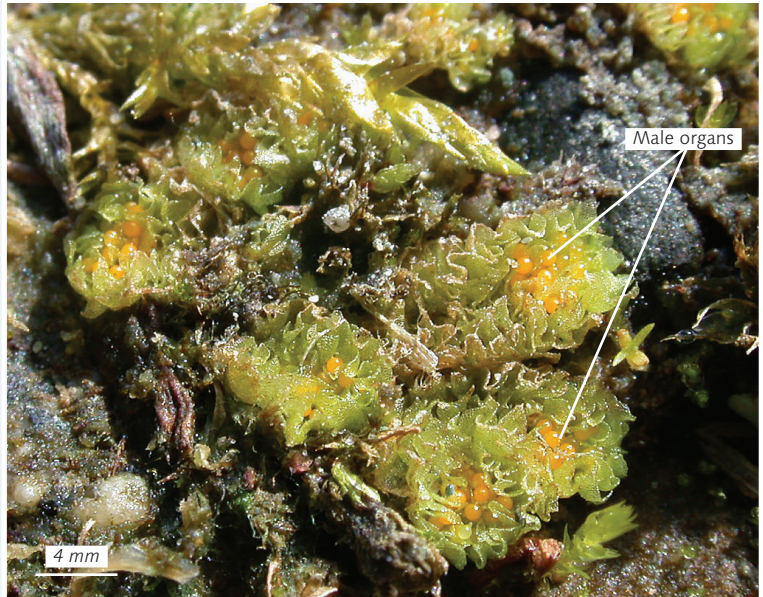
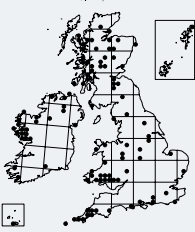


*Fossombronia incurva*

Weedy Frillwort



**Identification** This small, yellow-green or pale green *Fossombronia* species is usually less than 5 mm long. It occurs either as single erect stems or as more branched stems which may form small mats. The crisped leaves and purple rhizoids are typical of the genus, but this species is dioicous. Male plants have quite conspicuous male organs (see photograph), whereas females bear perianths with a rather narrow mouth, often with incurved teeth. Many of the spores are released in tetrads, and very observant bryologists have sometimes noted 2 males and 2 females growing together – the products of a single tetrad. Capsules are frequent.

**Similar species** *F. incurva* may be accompanied by monoicous *Fossombronia* species (pp. 228–231) that have broader, more open perianths. Of the other members of the genus, only *F. fimbriata* (p. 233) is also dioicous, but it has much more highly dissected leaves. Some other small liverworts, such as *Haplomitrium hookeri* (p. 72) and *Lophozia excisa* (p. 120), also occur in similar habitats and might conceivably be confused with *F. incurva*, but they have colourless rather than purple rhizoids.

**Habitat** This rather weedy species is found on moist, often sandy or gravelly soil on roadsides, tracks, paths and quarry floors, and on china clay spoil and fly ash, as well as in more natural sites such as the margins of lakes and streams and in dune slacks.