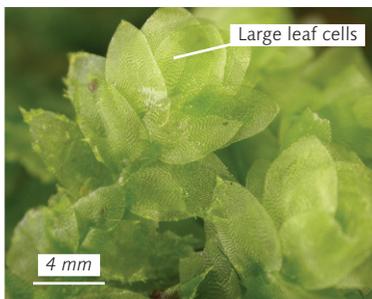


Hookeria lucens

Shining Hookeria

Key 294



Identification The shoots of *H. lucens* are 2–6 cm long, pale or bright green, and are rather 2-dimensional, although the flattening is not as extreme as in genera such as *Fissidens* or *Schistostega*. The most striking character of the leaves is the enormous, more or less hexagonal cells which are visible to the naked eye and extend to the margins (there is no border of narrow cells). The leaves are about 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, rounded at the tip and have no nerve. The dark brown capsules are quite common, about 2 mm long, borne on a seta about 2 cm tall, and carried horizontally or sloping slightly downwards.

Similar species When first encountered, one might wonder whether *H. lucens* is a liverwort, but the leaves are not strictly held in 2 or 3 ranks and no liverwort has such large leaf cells. It is in fact a completely unmistakable moss, which once seen is unlikely to be forgotten (although it always remains a pleasure to find it). Two very much rarer species are somewhat similar. *Cyclodictyon laetevirens* (p. 668) is bright green like *H. lucens*, but its leaves have a distinct border and a double nerve. The introduced *Calyptrochaeta apiculata* (Smith, p. 702) has a toothed border to the leaf. It is local on Tresco, Isles of Scilly, and also grows at two sites on the English mainland and at one site in Co. Cork.

Habitat A plant of shaded, moist, humid sites, found in flushes on woodland banks and on streamsides and riversides, on flat ground in fen carr and woodland, on the sides of ravines and in crevices in cliffs and boulders. It often grows with opposite-leaved golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*). In the far west, *H. lucens* is also found among tussocky moor-grass (*Molinia*) in open areas.