

*Jamesoniella undulifolia*

Marsh Flapwort



**Identification** *J. undulifolia* grows in thin mats or scattered stems on or through hummocks of *Sphagnum* or occasionally on *Leucobryum glaucum*. The stems are usually bright green, sometimes with a touch of red. Shoots are up to 5 cm long and 1.5–3.5 mm wide. The leaves are shortly oval (about 1 mm wide and long) with a long insertion on the front of the stem, often widely spaced lower down and more crowded near the stem tip, spreading or more erect. The margins of the larger leaves are often slightly undulate with an uneven outline, and may be slightly indented. Dioicous, fertile plants are quite frequent; the perianth is relatively large and abruptly narrowed at the tip to a toothed mouth.

**Similar species** In its restricted habitat, it is only likely to be confused with *Mylia anomala* (p. 142) and *Odontoschisma sphagni* (p. 102). *Mylia* species (pp. 141–142) have very large cells which can be easily seen with a hand lens. *O. sphagni* and *J. undulifolia* can look very similar, but most stands of *O. sphagni* have thread-like branches arising on the lower side of the stem. Other useful characters are the nature of the branching – branches come from the side of the stem, tucked within a leaf base in *J. undulifolia*, and from the back of the stem in *O. sphagni* – and the very different inflorescences.

**Habitat** The present sites for *J. undulifolia* in Scotland are all in *Sphagnum* hummocks associated with the margins of moderately base-rich flushes near the coast, but other sites are on raised bogs or valley mire and in one instance by an upland, stony flush. Sites in Shropshire are on or beside fairly compact shoots of *Sphagnum* where conditions are permanently damp, but not very wet or flushed.