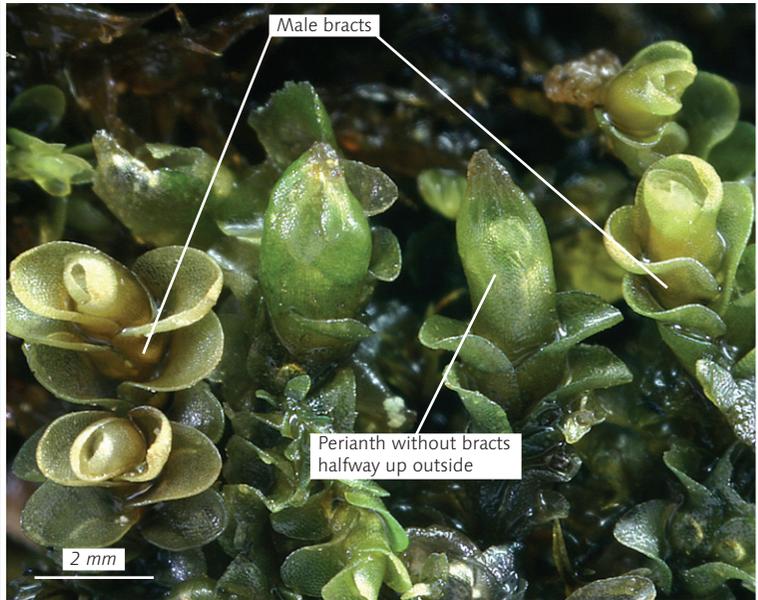


Jungermannia atrovirens

Dark-green Flapwort

Key 73



Identification This is the commonest *Jungermannia* in limestone districts and on base-rich sandstone. *J. atrovirens* is dark green, and varies in size, but is usually small- to medium-sized (shoots typically 2–3 mm wide, with leaves up to 1 mm wide and long). Like most British *Jungermannia* species, it is aromatic. It is dioicous, but both sexes are usually readily found. The perianth lacks bracts halfway up its outside, and the rhizoids are colourless.

Similar species Its small size and dark green colour should distinguish *J. atrovirens* from other genera with entire leaves. Few other British *Jungermannia* species are dioicous: *J. exsertifolia* (p. 145) is larger than most forms of *J. atrovirens* and has a wider leaf base, narrowing at the stem. *J. hyalina* (p. 148) is larger, usually brighter green, has purple rhizoids and the perianth has bracts halfway up its outside. *J. gracillima* (p. 147) is often red-tinged and its leaves usually have a thickened border. *J. borealis* (Paton, p. 272) is tiny and brown, has shoots no more than 1.5 mm wide, and at least some leaves with hooded tips. It is uncommon on base-rich ground in the mountains. *J. polaris* (Paton, p. 269) has male organs just below the female bracts. *Odontoschisma sphagni* (p. 102) grows in bogs and has abundant, thread-like branches growing downwards from its stem. *Southbya tophacea* and *S. nigrella* (p. 200) have opposite leaves.

Habitat *J. atrovirens* grows in a range of calcareous situations, either on rock, tufa or soil. It is often abundant on damp limestone or sandstone cliffs, or in damp, calcareous turf in the uplands. In the lowlands, it is occasionally encountered on forestry tracks that have been surfaced with limestone or on tufaceous rock in wooded dingles.