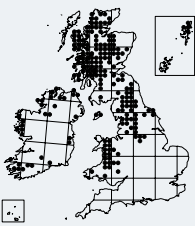


*Jungermannia obovata**Solenostoma obovatum*

Egg Flapwort

Key 73



**Identification** Shoots are 1.5–3 mm wide, with leaves 1–1.5 mm long and wide. The main distinguishing feature of this dark green or pigmented, aromatic *Jungermannia* is the orientation of its leaves. They narrow rapidly to the base and are inserted across the stem, with a convex fold on the back edge allowing them to lie more or less flat. Most other *Jungermannia* species have leaves running diagonally across the stem, with the back edge extending along it. *J. obovata* has a perianth with bracts halfway up its outside, is monoicous and usually has purple or red rhizoids.

**Similar species** *J. paroica* (p. 149) and *J. hyalina* (p. 148) have perianths with bracts halfway up the outside, like *J. obovata*, but have leaves that run down onto the stem. *J. hyalina* also differs in being dioicous. Two other moderately common species have narrow leaf insertions: *J. exsertifolia* (p. 145) is larger, with broad-based, heart-shaped leaves, and *J. sphaerocarpa* (p. 146) has more circular leaves. Neither of these species has bracts on the outside of the perianth, *J. exsertifolia* is dioicous and *J. sphaerocarpa* has winged perianths. The scarce *J. subelliptica* (*Solenostoma subellipticum*) (Paton, p. 287) has slender shoots with narrow, rounded leaves.

**Habitat** A fairly frequent plant in gorges and gullies in upland Britain, where it grows on rocks, boulders or shelves by streams, usually near the normal water level in winter. It avoids base-rich sites, where it may be replaced by the much scarcer *J. subelliptica*.