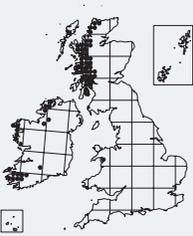


# *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius*

Wedge Flapwort



**Identification** This small (shoots up to about 0.5 mm wide), rather *Plagiochila*-like leafy liverwort has minute (usually less than 0.2 mm long and wide), distinctively wedge-shaped leaves, with a narrow base and a wide, untoothed tip. They are usually widely spaced on the upright, tuft-forming shoots. Like the *Plagiochila* species it grows with, *Leptoscyphus* is pale green when young, and brownish when older. Unlike *Plagiochila* species, *L. cuneifolius* is unscented.

**Similar species** Small *Plagiochila* species share the habitat and growth form of *L. cuneifolius* and some, especially *P. punctata* (p. 198) and *P. exigua* (p. 199) look superficially very similar. However, all *Plagiochila* species have at least 1 or 2 teeth on at least some leaves (usually all leaves are toothed) and those of similar stature to *Leptoscyphus* have the distinctive *Plagiochila* scent (although some people cannot smell it).

**Habitat** In Britain and Ireland, *Leptoscyphus* grows only in humid woodlands in the extreme west. In many woods it grows in small quantity, but in some it is locally abundant. Generally it favours the edges of these woodlands rather than the deepest, most humid parts of ravines. It is usually found on birch (*Betula*) trunks, but occasionally grows on oak (*Quercus*), willow (*Salix*) or rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and very rarely on rocky hillsides, growing either on heather (*Calluna/Erica*) stems or boulders.