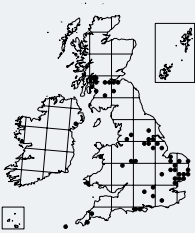


Lophocolea semiteres

Southern Crestwort



Identification Like its common relative *L. heterophylla*, this introduced plant is a delicate, translucent, pale green leafy liverwort with entire or slightly and bluntly notched leaves. Shoots are 0.5–3 mm wide, with leaves up to 1.8 mm wide and 1.5 mm long. The underleaves are bilobed with spreading lobes, teeth on the sides and often partly fused with the lateral leaves on one or both sides. It is slightly aromatic. This liverwort is dioicous; male plants are much commoner than females, and are very conspicuous.

Similar species *L. heterophylla* (p. 184) has the lower leaves bilobed. *Chiloscyphus polyanthos* and *C. pallescens* (p. 187) can be very similar, but the form of the underleaves is a good distinction: they are small, bilobed, with the lobes close to and parallel to one another, pointing straight towards the shoot tips, and not partly fused with adjacent lobes, unlike those of *L. semiteres*. *L. brookwoodiana* (*Journal of Bryology* 28, 163–166) is only known from Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey. Its leaf shape is variable: some leaves have several teeth, whilst others have 2 or 3 blunt lobes. The underleaves are deeply bilobed and have numerous teeth. Unlike other British *Lophocolea* species, it is not scented.

Habitat Earth or sandy banks in woodland and heathland, often in extensive colonies. An introduced species that is spreading.