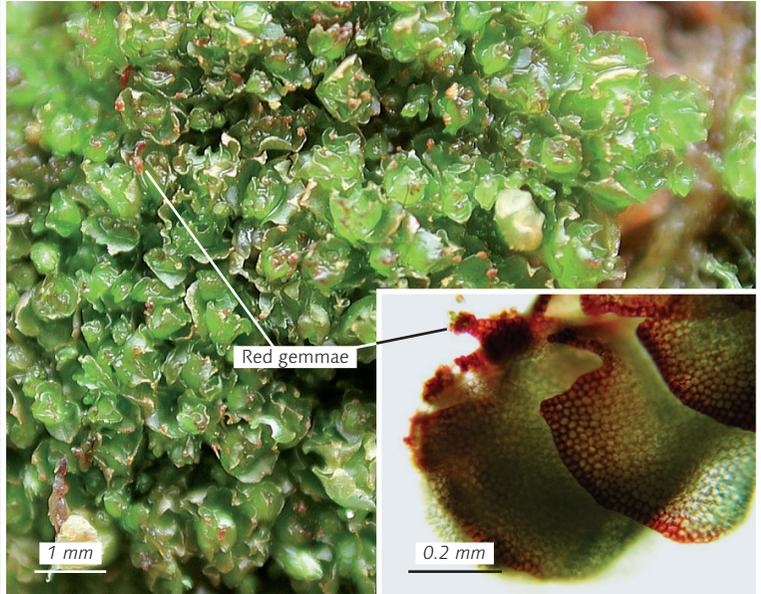


Lophozia excisa

Capitate Notchwort

Key 61



Identification A very small (shoots 0.5–2.5 mm wide), compact *Lophozia* with bright red gemmae that contrast with mid-green leaves and stem. The leaves are about 1 mm long and bilobed to about one-quarter of their depth and the 2 lobes may be either acute or blunt. Like *L. bicrenata* (and unlike other British *Lophozia*), it is monoicous, and fruiting plants are quite easily found.

Similar species As *L. excisa* is more often found in the lowlands than most *Lophozia*, confusion is possible with two rarer species of similar size: *L. perssonii* (p. 122) and *L. capitata* (Paton, p. 203). The gemmae in *L. perssonii* are usually brown rather than red, its leaves are inserted across the stem rather than obliquely and it grows exclusively on lime-rich substrates. *L. capitata* grows on acidic substrates (as does *L. excisa*), but its gemmae are green (occasionally purple), borne in clusters at the tip of elongated stems. *L. bicrenata* (p. 121) is similar in size, but usually less bright green, with brown gemmae, and a distinctive scent. The red gemmae of *L. excisa* resemble those of *Scapania cuspiduligera* (p. 169), but that has longer, wider leaves with a loosely appressed version of the leaf arrangement typical of *Scapania*. Non-gemiferous plants of *L. excisa* can look very much like *Fossombronia* (pp. 228–233), *Cephaloziella* (pp. 104–108) or *Nardia geoscyphus* (p. 153): search for perianths or gemmae.

Habitat A calcifuge of bare, damp soil, especially in areas kept open by slight, occasional flooding by rain. Typical habitats include hollows in heathland, quarries, acidic dunes and spoil heaps. Where the soil is sufficiently leached, it can grow over limestone. More rarely it grows on decaying logs, tree bases and amongst mosses on rocks.