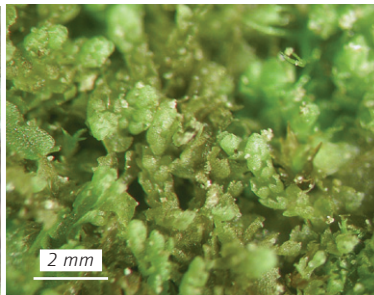
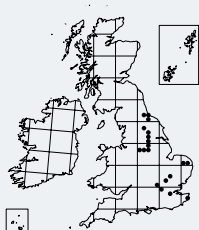


Lophozia perssonii

Chalk Notchwort



Identification In contrast to most British *Lophozia* species, *L. perssonii* is strictly lime-loving with an eastern distribution. It is a tiny (shoots 0.5–1.3 mm wide), pale green plant with bilobed leaves tipped with balls of dark brown gemmae. The leaves grow up to about 0.75 mm wide and long, and are transversely inserted across the stem rather than obliquely.

Similar species The most similar *Lophozia* species is *L. excisa* (p. 120), which is usually bright green with red gemmae, has obliquely inserted leaves and is mostly a calcifuge. The small, bilobed-leaved lime-lovers that it grows with – *Leiocolea badensis* (p. 127), *Leiocolea turbinata* (p. 128) and *Cephaloziella baumgartneri* (Paton, p. 145) – either lack gemmae or, in the case of the very rare *C. baumgartneri*, have them in less striking clusters on more deeply lobed leaves. The very rare *L. herzogiana* (Paton, p. 201) also has slender, gemmiferous shoots, but sports underleaves as well.

Habitat *L. perssonii* is scarce on patches of bare soil in grassland on chalk or Magnesian limestone. Disused quarries and old chalk pits are particularly favoured. Most habitats are relatively exposed and liable to dry out in the summer.