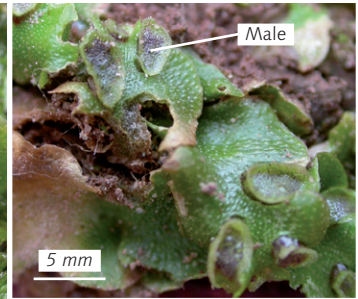
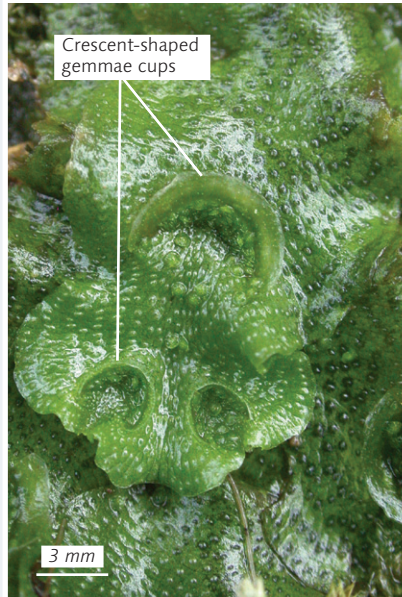
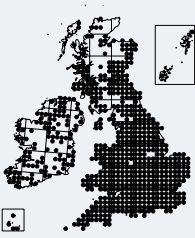


Lunularia cruciata

Crescent-cup Liverwort

Key 7



Identification *L. cruciata* forms large, dichotomously branching thalli up to 12 mm wide. Its shiny, faintly lined, pale green surface is dotted with tiny, though relatively conspicuous air pores. *L. cruciata* is the only thallose liverwort with crescent-shaped receptacles which contain green, disc-like gemmae. When dry, thalli can become yellowish, the margins inroll, and the reticulations almost disappear. Capsules are very rare, and are borne on a distinctive, cross-like, stalked female receptacle.

Similar species *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis* (p. 258) can grow in similar habitats, but differs in having a faint, black median line on the thallus, and cup-shaped gemma receptacles. *Conocephalum* species (p. 255) can also grow with *Lunularia*, but lack gemma receptacles and have more conspicuous lines on the upper surface of the thallus. *Dumortiera hirsuta* (p. 254) lacks both gemma receptacles and conspicuous air pores on the upper surface.

Habitat *L. cruciata* is often found near human habitation, particularly in damp, shady places. It can be a weed of gardens and glasshouses, and is often found at the base of damp walls. Occasionally it grows on lane banks or shady soil, and *Lunularia* is often abundant on silty boulders.