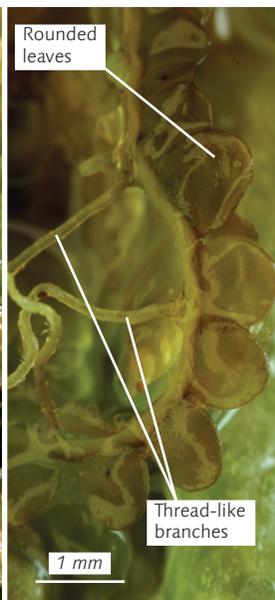


# *Odontoschisma sphagni*

Bog-moss Flapwort

Key 70



**Identification** *O. sphagni* is the commonest liverwort with unlobed, round leaves held upright from the stem (rather than flat like a *Calypogeia*) that grows in bogs. *O. sphagni* is usually characteristically orange, although it may be brown or (rarely) entirely green. Shoots grow up to 3 mm wide and 8 cm long, with leaves a little over 1 mm long and wide. Its leaves have a border of small, thick-walled cells, visible through a  $\times 20$  hand lens. Abundant, thread-like branches with tiny leaves stick downwards from the stem into the substrate. Fertile plants are uncommon and gemmae are absent.

**Similar species** No other British liverwort genus with round, unlobed leaves has thread-like branches. *O. sphagni* looks similar to various *Jungermannia* and *Nardia* species (pp. 151–154), but none grow on *Sphagnum* in bogs and none are orange. *Jamesoniella autumnalis* (p. 139) has unbordered leaves and teeth on its perianth mouth that consist of several cells in a row. *J. undulifolia* (p. 140) is usually green, and has unbordered, very shallowly notched leaves. *Mylia anomala* (p. 142) and *O. denudatum* (p. 103) have gemmae. Two other *Odontoschisma* species, both with unbordered leaves, are restricted to the far north and west. *O. elongatum* (Paton, p. 132) is a very dark, almost black liverwort that grows on loch margins, usually intermixed with filamentous algae, and can be found quite readily once its habitat is known; *O. macounii* (Paton, p. 132) is pale green and has been recorded on a few mountain ledges.

**Habitat** This is one of the commonest liverworts on hummocks of *Sphagnum* in raised, valley and blanket bogs. It may also grow on wet peat, and is sometimes found on heathland, on steep hillsides, or in upland woodland.