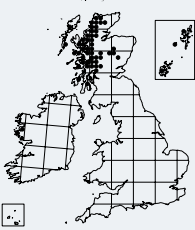


Plagiochila carringtonii

Carrington's Featherwort



Identification *P. carringtonii* forms erect tufts of large, pale yellow-green shoots up to 1.5 mm wide (as seen from the front) and several centimetres long. Its slightly concave, rounded leaves (up to 2 mm across) are held pressed towards each other across the stem, making the shoots appear laterally compressed. About two-thirds of the leaf blade extends to the back and one-third to the front side of the stem. The leaf margin mostly lacks teeth and extends well down onto the front of the stem surface. *P. carringtonii* is dioicous, but female plants and sporophytes are unknown in the British Isles.

Similar species *P. carringtonii* bears little resemblance to other species in the same genus. *Nardia compressa* (p. 151) looks superficially similar, but differs in colour and texture, and grows in much wetter habitats.

Habitat This striking liverwort is a characteristic, but uncommon member of the northern hepatic mat community found in rocky heaths on upland slopes that face north to east.