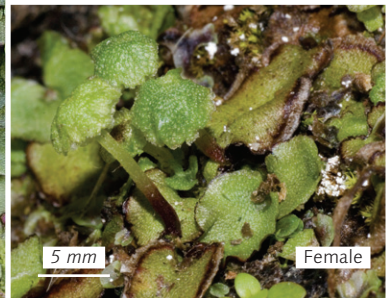
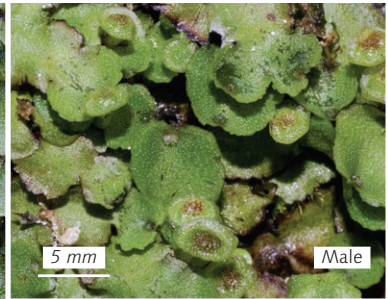
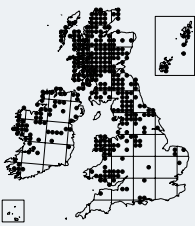


Preissia quadrata

Narrow Mushroom-headed Liverwort

Key 10



Identification This medium-sized thallose liverwort has dichotomously branched, flat, leathery thalli up to 1 cm wide, often growing in mats. Plants are not aromatic, although the thallus has a distinctively hot taste when nibbled on the tip of the tongue. The upper surface of the thallus is usually dark green, and conspicuously dotted with minute air pores which are raised above the surface. The margins are tinged dark purple. Male and female receptacles are stalked and may be borne on the same or separate plants; male receptacles are flattened, disc-like and unlobed; female receptacles are hemispherical with 4 broad ridges, each ending in a short lobe, and the surface is dotted with air pores.

Similar species *Reboulia hemisphaerica* (p. 256) is a similar size and also has red or purplish-tinged margins, but differs in the surface of its thallus, which is pale or glaucous green and smooth, with inconspicuous air pores. In addition, its male receptacles are sessile and cushion-like on the thallus, the female receptacles are not ridged and are more deeply 4- to 7-lobed. *R. hemisphaerica* does not taste peppery. *Marchantia polymorpha* (p. 258) is easily distinguished by the gemma cups on its thallus. *Conocephalum salebrosum* (p. 255) has aromatic thalli. The hot taste of *Preissia* is unique among British Marchantiales.

Habitat *P. quadrata* is a strict lime-lover, growing most frequently on moist, montane and subalpine ledges of limestone, schist and other calcareous rocks, and sometimes on streamsides and in ravines; however, it also often grows in mossy, calcareous turf, in flushes, fens and dune slacks down to sea level.