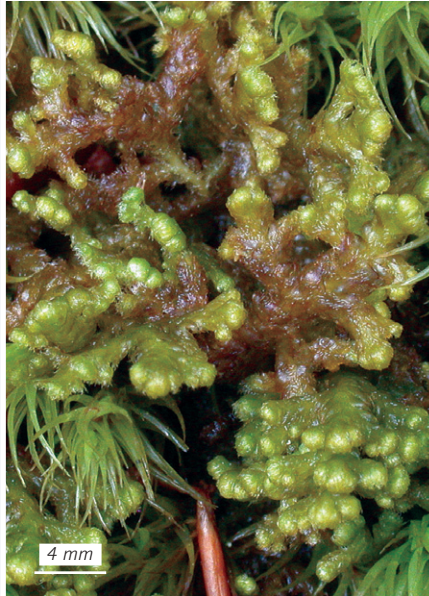
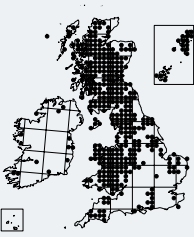


Ptilidium ciliare

Ciliated Fringewort

Key 28



Identification

This large (shoots to 3 mm wide), distinctive species grows in loose, reddish-brown to yellow-green tufts. Stems are pinnate or bipinnate, with short, rounded branches densely covered with overlapping leaves. Leaves are up to 2.8 mm wide and 2.3 mm long, and the leaf margins have numerous long, thin teeth, which make it difficult to see that the leaves are bilobed. Fertile plants and capsules are very rare.

Similar species

P. pulcherrimum (p. 205) can be confused with stunted forms of *P. ciliare*, but is a smaller, more compact plant that almost always grows closely appressed to bark. *Mastigophora woodsii* (p. 73) is more robust, and has much longer, attenuated branches on which the leaves get gradually smaller towards the tips.

Habitat

A common species (except in Ireland), found in many lowland to upland habitats such as acidic grassland, rocky slopes, cliff ledges, screes, wall tops, dwarf shrub heaths, bogs, sand dunes and heathy woodlands where it is usually mixed with other bryophytes. Substrates are usually well-drained and acidic. It is rarely found on fallen logs and branches.