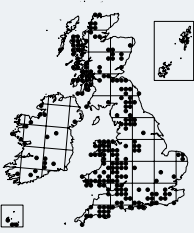


Reboulia hemisphaerica

Hemisphaeric Liverwort

Key 10



Identification This medium-sized thallose liverwort has dichotomously branching, flat, leathery thalli up to 8 mm wide, often forming loose mats. Plants are weakly aromatic, and the upper surface of the thallus is pale or glaucous green, contrasting with the red or purplish margins. The surface is smooth, with a faint network of lines and inconspicuous air pores. The male receptacles form sessile, often purplish cushions. Female receptacles are borne on short, terminal stalks and are green and hemispherical with 4 to 7 spreading or deflexed lobes. Air pores are quite conspicuous on the receptacles.

Similar species *Preissia quadrata* (p. 257) differs in its darker green thalli that taste peppery, more conspicuous and elevated air pores, and both male and female receptacles borne on stalks. Its female receptacles consistently have 4 ridges, each terminating in a short lobe.

Habitat *R. hemisphaerica* grows in similar habitats to *Preissia quadrata*, but usually at lower altitudes and in seasonally drier sites. It often grows on calcareous soil on or under boulders, in crevices of cliffs, rocks and walls, in limestone pavement and on earthy banks. It prefers some shade, and grows mainly in winter, when conditions are moist and vascular plants are less competitive.