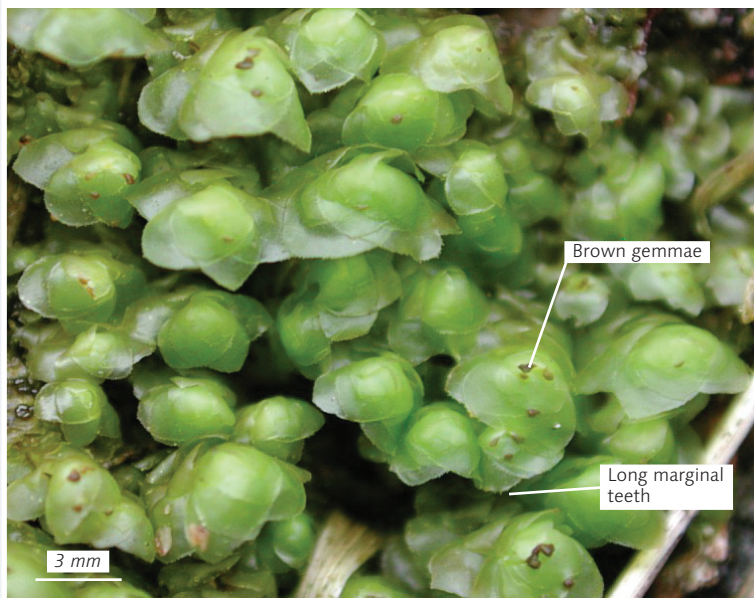
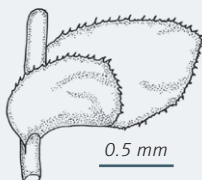
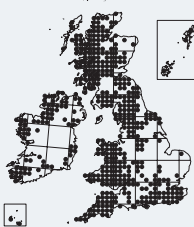


*Scapania nemorea**S. nemorosa*

Grove Earwort

Key 34



Identification Much the commonest *Scapania* with brown gemmae, dense clusters of which are almost always visible on the tips of the leaf lobes. Both leaf lobes are broadly rounded, and usually edged with long, marginal teeth. The leaf margins run down onto the stem. Shoots are 1.5–5.5 mm wide, and may grow several centimetres long. Leaves may vary between 1 mm and a little more than 2 mm long.

Similar species The only other relatively common *Scapania* with dark gemmae is *S. umbrosa* (p. 171), which has much narrower, pointed leaf lobes. Our other *Scapania* species with dark gemmae look very different from *S. nemorea*, for example *S. cuspiduligera* (p. 169) has roughly equal-sized leaf lobes, and *S. paludicola* (Paton, p. 368) has strongly arched keels, and are all rare. Plants of *S. nemorea* that lack gemmae differ from *S. undulata* (p. 175) in having a front lobe that runs down onto the stem, and from *S. irrigua* (p. 173) in the strongly toothed margins and a base that runs down onto the stem. *S. gracilis* (p. 180) and *S. degenii* (p. 174) have neither lobe running down the stem, whilst *S. aspera* (p. 179) has the front lobe crossing the stem by a long way.

Habitat *S. nemorea* is the second commonest British *Scapania* species, and grows in a wide range of humid but never very wet habitats. Most typical are the tops of moss-covered sandstone boulders in woodland or on open hillsides, small sandstone rocks embedded in the woodland floor, decaying logs that are covered in liverworts, and peat in heathland.