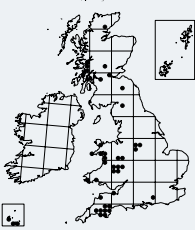


Targionia hypophylla

Orobus-seed Liverwort



Identification *T. hypophylla* has long, narrow, leathery, strongly aromatic thalli, 2–5 mm wide, dark green or slightly bluish-green above with dark purple margins. The upper surface is flat, with weak reticulations and conspicuous dots (air pores). When dry, the thallus rolls up to form a black, worm-like tube. Male receptacles are sessile on very short branches on the underside of the thallus. Unique, shiny, black, mussel-like, 2-valved involucre in which the capsules are enclosed are borne beneath the tips of the thalli.

Similar species When the characteristically dark involucre are present (most easily seen when dry), *T. hypophylla* cannot be confused with any other genus. When non-fertile and dry, the black, rolled-up thalli are also unique.

Habitat *T. hypophylla* strongly favours sites that are seasonally very dry, particularly on limestone rocks, thin soil on rocky banks and crevices of walls, more rarely in coastal turf.