

# More tree fern aliens

In this short note, **Richard Fisk** describes some of the exotic mosses and liverworts found growing on tree ferns at a garden centre in Suffolk.

I was browsing in a local garden centre in May this year and came across a display of tree ferns. They were quite small plants, the trunks being about 20 cm tall and 6 cm in diameter. They were a mix of *Dicksonia fibrosa* and *D. squarrosa*, and bore the label of Ponga, a firm in Holland that apparently specializes in tree ferns.

All of the plants had a reasonable growth of bryophytes on the trunks. Some were immediately recognizable – *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Eurhynchium praelongum* and *Leptobryum pyriforme*. There were also others that were obviously non-native, and a small sample was collected that yielded three mosses and five liverworts.

The most obvious moss was *Achrophyllum dentatum* (Hook. f. & Wils.) Vitt & Crosby. The stems were quite short and the plants were identical to the description given by Rumsey (2001) in that they were somewhat atypical with almost entire leaves, but with cells too small for *A. quadrifarium* (Sm.) Vitt & Crosby. Also present were *Leptotheca gaudichaudii* Schägr. and *Wijkia extenuata* (Brid.) Crum. *A. dentatum* and *L. gaudichaudii* have been recorded previously in Britain (Rumsey, 2001; Smith, 2004).

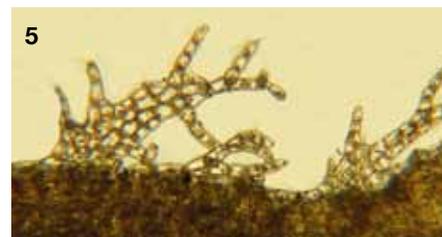
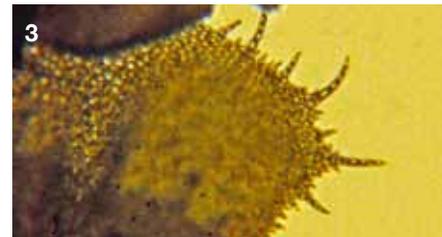
The liverworts found were *Chiloscyphus coalitus* (Hook.) Nees, *Lophocolea muricata* (Lehm.) Nees, *Metzgeria furcata* (L.) Dumort. [*M. decipiens* (Mass.) Schiffner & Gottsche], *Telaranea longii* (Hook. f. & Tayl.) Hodgs. and a *Lejeunea* species that I think is *L. primordialis* (Hook. f. & Tayl.) Taylor ex Gottsche *et al.* Of these liverworts, *Chiloscyphus coalitus* appears to be a fairly tough plant and might survive if it were to escape.

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## References

- Rumsey, F.J. (2001). *Achrophyllum dentatum* (Hook. f. & Tayl.) Vitt & Crosby naturalised in Britain. *Journal of Bryology* 23, 341–344.
- Smith, A.J.E. (2004). *The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland*, 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



△ 1 Leaves of *Achrophyllum dentatum*. 2–5 *Lophocolea muricata* – shoot apex (2), leaf margin (3), leaf surface showing papillae (4) and underleaf viewed from side (5). *Richard Fisk*