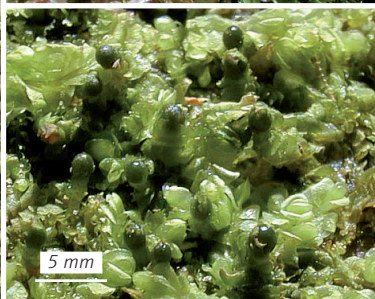
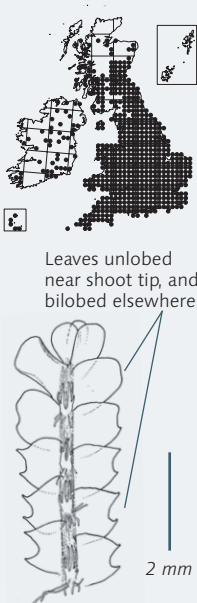


Lophocolea heterophylla

Variable-leaved Crestwort

Key 46



Identification

A delicate, translucent, pale green leafy liverwort with bilobed leaves low down the stem, grading into slightly notched or entire leaves towards the tip of the shoot. The underleaves are also bilobed, with an additional lateral tooth on each side. Shoots are 1–3 mm wide, with leaves less than 1.5 mm wide and long. It is strongly aromatic and often fertile, with sack-like male bracts below the toothed perianth. *L. heterophylla* sometimes has gemmae on the margins of the leaves and bracts.

Similar species

L. bidentata (p. 183) has all leaves bilobed. *L. fragrans* (p. 186) has less clearly bilobed, more markedly toothed leaves. *L. semiteres* (p. 185) lacks distinctly bilobed lower leaves. *Lophozia* species (pp. 116–122) lack underleaves and often have green or reddish gemmae at the shoot tips. *Leiocolea* species (pp. 123–128) tend to be darker, often with rather short, blunt leaf lobes. *Cephalozia* species (pp. 92–96) are much smaller and lack underleaves. Several other, rarer liverworts have similarly bilobed leaves, including *Harpanthus scutatus* (p. 189), with unlobed underleaves.

Habitat

A widespread species, most common in southern England, especially on the base of trees, but also in a wide range of other habitats, including rotting logs, earthy banks and fallen twigs and litter in woodland. Further north and west, *L. heterophylla* becomes increasingly characteristic of ancient woodland.