Anastrophyllum donnianum

Donn's Notchwort





Identification A. donnianum is one of our most amazing-looking liverworts. It is glossy, dark reddish-brown, and has elegantly long, concave, slightly asymmetrical leaves, which are all curved forwards. It grows as loose turfs of upright stems among other large liverworts. Shoots are 1-4 mm wide; leaves are about 1 mm wide and about 1.5 mm long.

Similar species The only similar species are A. alpinum and A. joergensenii (p. 135). Both have relatively shorter and wider leaves than A. donnianum. A. alpinum often grows with A. donnianum.

Habitat One of a rich array of large leafy liverworts that grow under leggy heather or among rocks on steep, north- or east-facing slopes in the Scottish Highlands. Other members of this northern hepatic mat include Anastrepta orcadensis, Bazzania tricrenata, Herbertus aduncus, Pleurozia purpurea and Scapania ornithopodioides.