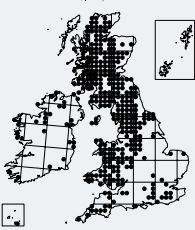


Barbilophozia attenuata

Trunk Pawwort

Key 58



Identification A crowd of thin shoots, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, with appressed leaves less than 1 mm wide and long, all sticking up from a tree stump, oak (*Quercus*) trunk or sandstone boulder tends to be the first thing that strikes one about *B. attenuata*. These gemmiferous shoots are unique among *Barbilophozia* species, although one needs to search lower down on the plants to find the 3-lobed leaves that indicate this genus. As well as typical, 3-lobed leaves, this pale green liverwort may occasionally have 2-lobed leaves, inviting confusion with *Anastrophyllum* or *Lophozia*. It is smaller than most *Barbilophozia* species, and lacks underleaves.

Similar species Unlikely to be confused with other *Barbilophozia* species thanks to its attenuated, gemmiferous shoots, although poorly grown colonies without these need to be distinguished from *B. floerkei* (p. 112) by the lack of underleaves, and from *B. atlantica* (p. 112) by the green (or very rarely red) gemmae. Attenuated shoots also occur in *Anastrophyllum hellerianum* (p. 133), which is less than half the size of *B. attenuata* and has strikingly red gemmae, and sometimes in *A. minutum* (p. 132), which has consistently bilobed, slightly asymmetrical leaves. *Leiocolea heterocolpos* (p. 126) has brown gemmae, and bilobed leaves with blunt lobes. *Tritomaria exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* (p. 138) have orange or red gemmae and asymmetrically lobed leaves. The very rare *Lophozia herzogiana* (Paton, p. 201) also has slender, gemmiferous shoots, but its leaf lobes are strikingly long and narrow.

Habitat A frequent species in humid habitats in western and northern Britain. Decaying tree stumps and the trunks of trees with acidic bark are its most typical substrates, although *B. attenuata* may also be abundant on sandstone or igneous boulders. More rarely it grows on peaty banks or in the holes in block scree beds.