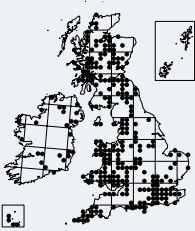


Lophozia bicrenata

Lesser Notchwort

Key 61



Identification *L. bicrenata* usually grows as small patches of brownish plants with shoots 0.5–1 mm wide and close-set, bilobed leaves less than 1 mm wide and long. Its brown or orange gemmae are produced on leaves near the shoot tip and can usually be seen with a hand lens. Lightly crushing a patch releases a sweet scent like cedar wood, unique among common British *Lophozia* (but not everyone seems to be able to smell it).

Similar species *L. perssonii* (p. 122) also has brown or orange gemmae, but has more widely spaced leaves, lacks the scent of *L. bicrenata* and grows on calcareous soil. *L. sudetica* (p. 119) and *L. longidens* (p. 118) have brown or orange gemmae too, but differently shaped leaves to *L. bicrenata*: a shallow, rounded notch in *L. sudetica* and very long lobes in *L. longidens*. The gemmae of the similar-sized *L. excisa* (p. 120) tend to be red.

Habitat Patches of *L. bicrenata* can be found on rather bare, crumbly, often iron-stained, acidic soil, especially on heathy banks in western Britain. Conifer plantations and disused quarries are the most frequent habitats. It also grows on stabilized sand dunes, soil on wall tops and boulders, and mine spoil.