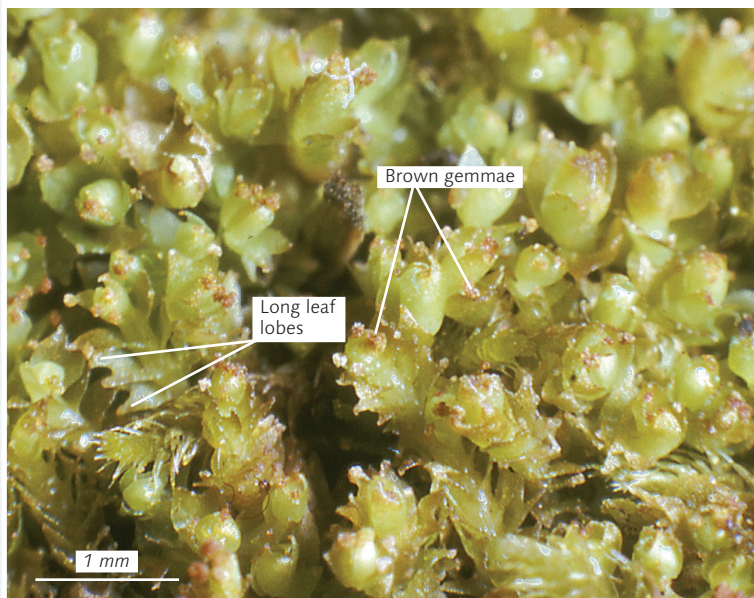
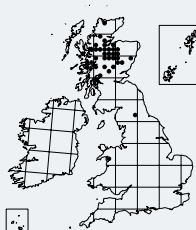


# *Lophozia longidens*

Horned Flapwort



**Identification** The unusual leaf shape, with its two long, narrow points tipped by balls of red-brown gemmae, makes this uncommon plant easily recognizable in the field. It forms loose mats or turfs of upright shoots, 0.5–1.8 mm wide, rather than creeping on a substrate. Leaves are usually less than 1 mm wide and long. The characteristic leaf tips become eroded in older leaves, making the older part of stems appear like other *Lophozia* species.

**Similar species** *L. excisa* (p. 120) and *L. bicrenata* (p. 121) are probably the most similar species in terms of size and colour of gemmae, but the leaves never have long lobes and they creep over the substrate. Other small liverworts with red gemmae and growing on acidic bases of trees include *Anastrophyllum hellerianum* (p. 133), *Scapania umbrosa* (p. 171), and *Tritomaria exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* (p. 138), all of which have asymmetrical leaves. *L. ventricosa* (p. 116) has green gemmae.

**Habitat** An uncommon plant of humid, rocky woodlands, ravines and steep, heathery slopes in northern Britain, especially in mixed native pine (*Pinus*)/birch (*Betula*) forest, typically growing on the lower trunks and branches of birch trees. *L. longidens* can sometimes be found on acidic boulders, particularly if there is a thin skin of peat or moss.