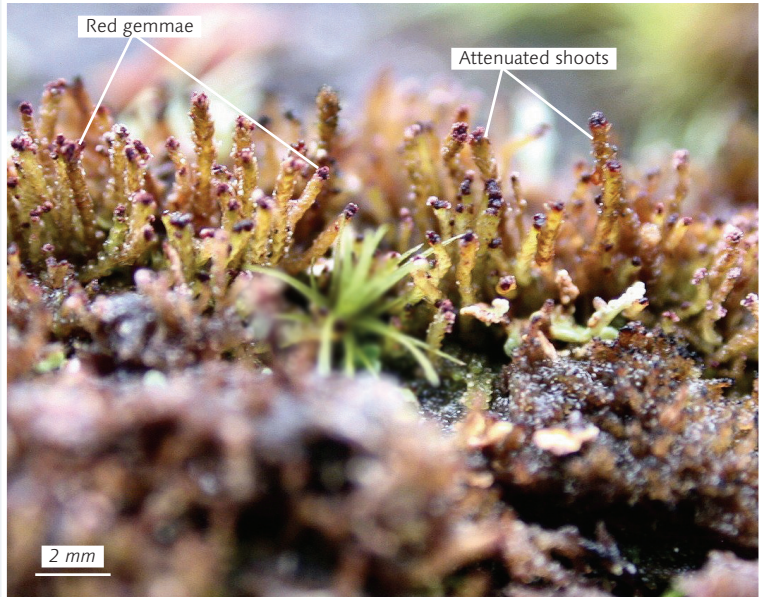
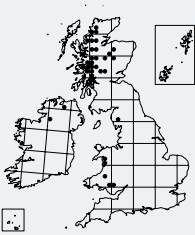


# *Anastrophyllum hellerianum*

Heller's Notchwort



**Identification** A tiny plant (shoots less than 1 mm wide and leaves less than 0.5 mm long), so small that it is unlikely to be encountered without deliberate searching. It creeps among *Nowellia curvifolia* on rotting logs in humid woodlands and is only really made at all detectable by its bright red or purple gemmae, which stick up from the liverwort mat on attenuated shoots like little match sticks. Its leaves are sharply bilobed, although those on the attenuated shoots are small and often tattered.

**Similar species** The red gemmae on tiny, attenuated shoots are often distinctive enough for field identification. *A. minutum* (p. 132), is most similar, but usually almost twice the size. However, it can be equally tiny, and usually has green gemmae, but can have red ones. If in doubt, a microscope should be used to look at the leaf cells. *Barbilophozia attenuata* (p. 111) is much larger and usually has green or brown gemmae, although these may be purplish red. No other liverworts on logs have attenuated shoots and red gemmae, but *Odontoschisma denudatum* (p. 103), *Tritomaria exsecta* and *T. exsectiformis* (p. 138), *Lophozia longidens* (p. 118) and *L. excisa* (p. 120) should be checked just in case.

**Habitat** Characteristic of decaying, rotting logs in woodland, especially oak logs in sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) woods and pine (*Pinus*) logs in the Caledonian forest. It tends to grow on the vertical or overhanging lower half of the sides of logs, intermixed with *Nowellia*, but few other species. Sometimes it colonizes living trees, especially oaks (*Quercus*) in very humid woodlands.