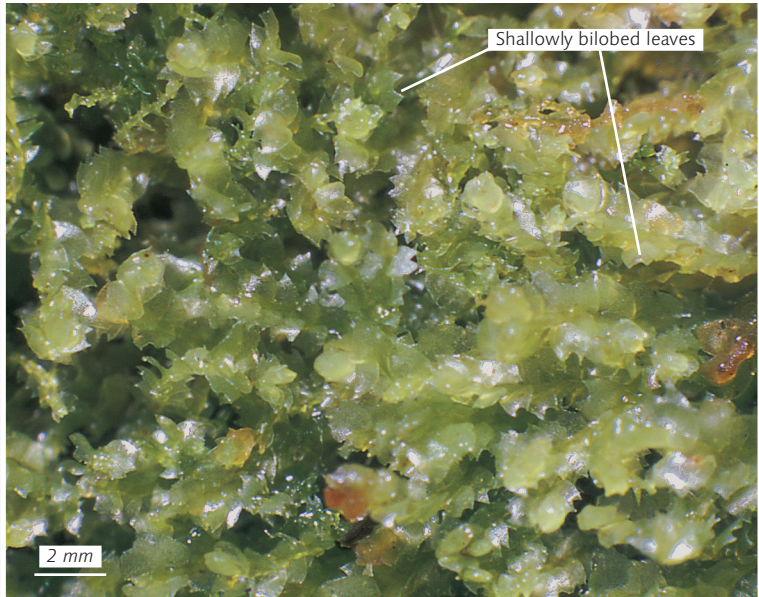
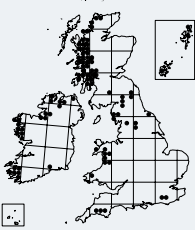


Harpanthus scutatus

Stipular Flapwort



Identification A small (shoots up to 1.5 cm long and 0.5–1.5 mm wide), pale to bright green, non-aromatic leafy liverwort with shallowly bilobed leaves less than 1 mm long and wide on rather ascending or erect stems. It may form extensive patches. It is easily known by its underleaves, which are relatively large, spearhead-shaped and unlobed.

Similar species *Lophocolea* species (pp. 183–186) are aromatic and have bilobed underleaves with additional lateral teeth. *Leiocolea* species (pp. 123–128) have minute or toothed underleaves. The presence of small underleaves distinguishes this species from *Lophozia ventricosa* (p. 116) and other species of *Lophozia* (pp. 117–122). The usually much smaller *Cephalozia* species (pp. 92–96) lack underleaves altogether. A few rare species such as *Acrobolbus wilsonii* (Paton, p. 435) and *Geocalyx graveolens* (p. 188) are somewhat similar, but again differ in the form of the underleaves (*A. wilsonii* lacks them). *H. flotovianus* (Paton, p. 405) is a much rarer plant, and is restricted to base-rich flushes in the Scottish highlands. Like *H. scutatus*, it has relatively large, spearhead-shaped underleaves, but it is a much bigger plant, and the leaf tips are slightly notched rather than strongly bilobed.

Habitat *H. scutatus* favours damp rocks (particularly sandstone), for example when almost buried in the woodland floor, but may also occur on rotten logs and peat. It is most frequent in the west.