

Cephalozia lunulifolia

Moon-leaved Pincerwort

Identification *C. lunulifolia* is mid-green, with obliquely to longitudinally inserted decurrent leaves that are divided to less than half their length and usually have a lunate sinus. It can be highly gemmiferous. *C. lunulifolia* is dioicous; the female bracts are usually untoothed, and the perianth mouth is only crenulate to dentate.

Similar species *C. catenulata* (Paton, p. 102) is dioicous (like *C. lunulifolia*) and grows on the same substrates, albeit usually in humid woodlands. It is characteristically brownish and more opaque, with obliquely inserted leaves that become (sub)transversely arranged near the stem apex. When present, the toothed female bracts and lobed-dentate perianth mouth are also distinctive. The rare *C. hibernica* (Paton, p. 115) has similar habitat preferences, but is restricted to a few sites in Ireland. It has longitudinally inserted, large-celled leaves, with lobes that end in rows of 2–3 cells, and its stems have a noticeable central strand. It is dioicous, like *C. lunulifolia*, but has a lobed, ciliate perianth mouth. *C. bicuspidata* (q.v.) and *C. connivens* (q.v.) differ in having male and female shoots arising from the same stem; *C. connivens* also has larger leaf cells. *C. macrostachya* (Paton, p. 104) is often dioicous, but has more opaque stems than *C. lunulifolia* and is usually brown or orange in colour. It often has channelled leaves, toothed female bracts and a fringed perianth mouth.

Habitat Although most frequent in woodland, and characteristic of decorticated logs and stumps, *C. lunulifolia* also extends into more open habitats, including rocky hill slopes, peatlands and heathy ground, where it is usually found on peaty substrates. However, *C. lunulifolia* may also occur occasionally on acidic rock faces.