


Cladopodiella francisci

Holt Notchwort

- Identification  A creeping green or reddish liverwort that shares the leaf shape of *C. fluitans* (oblong leaves with two rounded lobes), but is smaller (<1 mm wide) and usually has gemmae. These are pale green or, less often, red and are borne on ascending shoot tips. Flagellar shoots are usually present, but may be more difficult to detect than in *C. fluitans* because of the harder substrates where *C. francisci* grows. Small underleaves are present on the stem.
- Similar species As well as being smaller than *C. fluitans* (q.v.) and gemmiferous, this species has more closely packed leaves. It is perhaps more likely to be confused with other small, gemmiferous liverworts, such as *Anastrophyllum minutum* (q.v.), *Cephaloziella* species (q.v.), *Lophozia capitata* (Paton, 1999, p. 203) or *L. excisa* (q.v.). None of these have blunt, rounded leaf lobes, none have flagellar shoots, and neither of the *Lophozia* species nor the *Anastrophyllum* have underleaves.
- Habitat The heaths of southern England are the classic area for this scarce liverwort and it is locally frequent on a few of them. Elsewhere it is very scattered, and there are no modern records from several parts of the country where *C. francisci* was recorded in the past. It is a pioneer of acidic soil or sand in damp but well-drained places, such as track edges or ditch banks. A few colonies are on peaty banks.