

Herbertus stramineus

Straw Prongwort



Identification *H. stramineus* is a very moss-like liverwort, growing in erect tufts, dirty brown or blackish in colour; with a lens its closely overlapping leaves can be seen to be bilobed to about the middle, the lobes are finely pointed and spreading, but not horizontally. Fertile plants are rare.

Similar species Both *H. aduncus* (q.v.) and *H. borealis* (q.v.) differ in their larger size, up to 20 cm tall, in colourful tufts, with leaf tips spreading horizontally and in their preference for liverwort heaths in montane dwarf shrub communities.

Habitat *H. stramineus*, unlike *H. aduncus* and *H. borealis*, often grows on calcareous substrates, such as soil on cliff and rock ledges, turfy banks and amongst boulders, usually in the mountains, but also down to sea level.