

Jamesoniella undulifolia

Marsh Flapwort



Identification

In thin mats or scattered stems growing on or through hummocks of *Sphagnum* or occasionally *Leucobryum glaucum*. The stems are usually a bright green colour, sometimes with a touch of red, up to 5 cm long. The leaves are shortly oval with a wide insertion onto the stem, often distant lower down and more crowded near the stem apex, spreading or more erect. The margin of the larger leaves is often slightly undulate and often has an uneven outline, and may be slightly retuse. Dioicous, fertile plants quite frequent; female inflorescence on the main stem, perianth relatively large, abruptly narrowed at the apex to a dentate mouth.

Similar species

In its restricted habitat, it is only likely to be confused with *Mylia anomala* (q.v.) and *Odontoschisma sphagni* (q.v.). *Mylia* species (q.v.) have very large cells which can be easily seen with lens. *O. sphagni* and *J. undulifolia* can look very similar, but most stands of *O. sphagni* have postical flagella clearly visible. Other useful characters are the nature of the branching, lateral in *J. undulifolia* and postical in *O. sphagni*, and the very different inflorescences.

Habitat

The present sites in Scotland are all in *Sphagnum* hummocks associated with the margins of moderately base-rich flushes near the coast, but other sites are on raised bogs or valley mire and in one case by an upland stony flush.