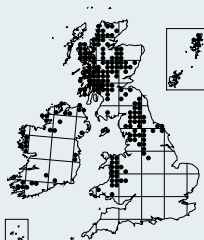


Jungermannia obovata

Egg Flapwort



Identification

Leaf shape is the main identification character of this dark green *Jungermannia*. Its leaves narrow rapidly to the base and are inserted across the stem, with a convex fold on the dorsal edge allowing them to lie more or less flat. Most other *Jungermannia* have the leaves running diagonally across the stem, with the dorsal edge extending along it. *J. obovata* has a well-developed perigynium, is monoicous and has purple or red rhizoids.

Similar species

J. paroica (q.v.) and *J. hyalina* (q.v.) share the perigynium of *J. obovata*, but have decurrent leaves; *J. hyalina* also differs in being dioicous. Two other moderately common species have narrow leaf insertions: *J. exsertifolia* (q.v.) is larger, with broad-based, heart-shaped leaves, and *J. sphaerocarpa* (q.v.) has more circular leaves. Neither of these species has a perigynium, *J. exsertifolia* is dioicous and *J. sphaerocarpa* has winged perianths.

Habitat

A fairly frequent plant in gorges and gullies in upland Britain, where it grows on rocks, boulders or shelves by streams, usually near the normal winter water level. It avoids base-rich situations, where it may be replaced by the similar-looking but much scarcer *J. subelliptica*.