

## *Riccia canaliculata*

Channelled Crystalwort

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**Identification** A purely terrestrial *Riccia* of waterside habitats growing in rosettes or patches up to 2 cm diameter; the linear thalli are two- to six-furcate and branches are less than 1 mm wide, bright or yellowish-green and sometimes violet-tinged, not translucent, with a groove along the upper surface, particularly near the apex (this groove becomes more conspicuous on drying). The apex is narrowed and subacute without any central notch; the surface is very faintly reticulate, but minute air pores are visible as dots. Capsules are frequent and visible as bulges on the underside of the thallus.

**Similar species** Terrestrial forms of *R. fluitans* (q.v.) and *R. rhenana* (q.v.) are very similar but differ in their translucent thalli which are reticulate above and lack a median groove even when dry. The most reliable difference is the branch tips which are broad and almost truncate with a central notch. Microscopic confirmation of spore ornamentation is desirable, however. *R. cavernosa* (q.v.), *R. crystallina* (q.v.) and *R. huebeneriana* (q.v.) grow in similar habitats, but all differ in their broader thalli that become distinctly spongy in the older parts.

**Habitat** This rare species is mostly found on damp mud on reservoir margins, sometimes by lakes and ponds.