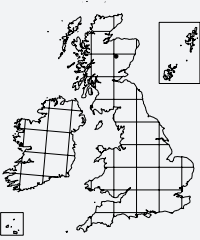


Athalamia hyalina

Hyaline Liverwort



Identification

A small- to medium-sized thalloid liverwort with delicate, fleshy, dichotomously branching, greyish-green, non-aromatic thalli. The upper surface is shallowly grooved, with a delicate network of lines on the upper surface, and inconspicuous air pores. Older parts of the thallus surface soon disintegrate. Male plants have no receptacles, but a line of tall projections along the middle of the thallus. Female plants have short-stalked receptacles borne along the middle of the thallus (not terminally). Each receptacle consists only of two to four smooth lobes, and no disc or air pores.

Similar species

The delicate thallus with the epidermis soon disintegrating, and the dorsal (rather than terminal) female receptacles of this species cannot be confused with those of any other British liverwort.

Habitat

A. hyalina is a very rare, montane liverwort growing on thin mineral soil over friable limestone, on open ground, on ledges of eroding crags or tucked under boulders, associated with other lime-loving mosses and liverworts such as *Reboulia* and *Preissia*. It is highly seasonal, growing in winter and early spring, and becoming very inconspicuous in summer.