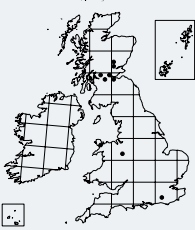


Riccia canaliculata

Channelled Crystalwort



Identification This terrestrial *Riccia* of waterside habitats grows in rosettes or patches up to 2 cm diameter. The linear thalli fork 2–6 times into 2 nearly equal branches that are less than 1 mm wide, bright or yellowish-green and sometimes tinged violet, opaque, with a groove along the upper surface, particularly near the tip (this groove becomes more conspicuous on drying). The tip is narrowed and broadly pointed without a central notch. The surface has a very faint network of lines, and 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* (p. 261) and *R. rhenana* (Paton, p. 583) are very similar, but differ in the translucent thalli which have a network of lines on the upper surface, 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. However, microscopical confirmation of spore ornamentation is advisable. *R. cavernosa* (p. 263), *R. crystallina* (p. 262) and *R. huebeneriana* (p. 264) grow in similar habitats, but all differ in the 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.