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Cryptogam of the Month – March 2009



Dry state

Moist state

Riccia limbata

Riccia limbata is a common liverwort species usually found on soil in dry habitats. When dormant (dry state) the thallus folds up to display the blackish underside scales and these appear as black patches on the soil. In the moist state which can be rapid the top of the thallus flattens to show a green surface edged with black scales that protruding outlining the thallus shape.

The Sporophyte (fruiting body) looks like a bag of spores and is usually immersed in the thallus tissue

This species has been located in semi arid to forested areas on a wide range of clay soils, occasionally on semi saline lake edges.

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