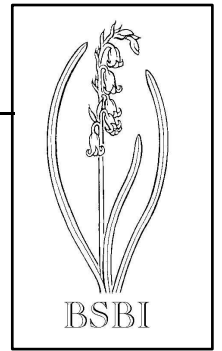
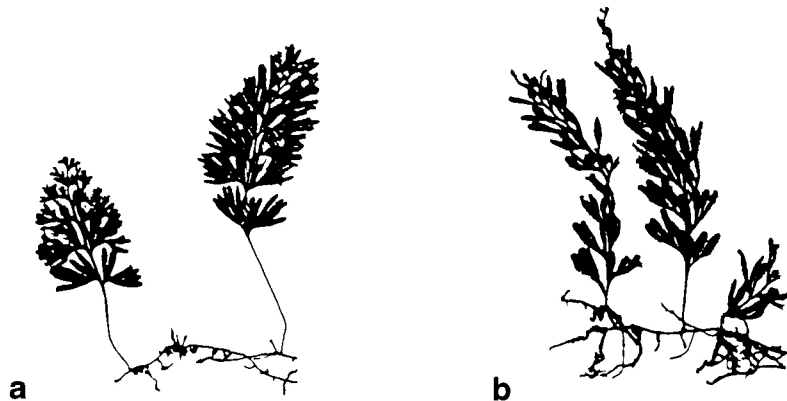


Plant Crib

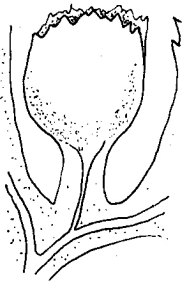
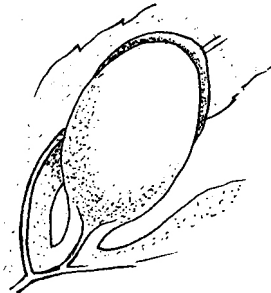


HYMENOPHYLLUM TUNBRIGENSE AND *H. WILSONII*

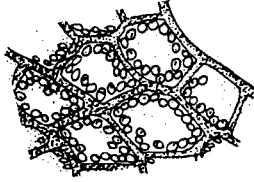

The morphology and autecology of the two *Hymenophyllum* species in the British Isles (*H. tunbrigense* and *H. wilsonii*) were studied by Evans (1964 1966) and a detailed *Biological Flora* account published (Richards & Evans 1972). When growing together, as they do frequently in western Britain and Ireland, *H. tunbrigense* may be overlooked; it is by far the rarer species. In these cases the two species appear to have ample opportunity to hybridise, as they do in the island of Madeira, but so far no such hybrid has been shown to exist in the British Isles; it should be looked for. It is intermediate in morphology and has a distinctive jizz of a more bushy *tunbrigense* with a fresh mid-green colour rather than the bluish appearance of that species; its spores are abortive.



Leaf silhouettes of *Hymenophyllum* (a) *H. tunbrigense* (b) *H. wilsonii*.

	<i>Hymenophyllum tunbrigense</i> (L.) Sm.	<i>H. wilsonii</i> Hook.
Leaves	Ovate-oblong, blue-green, frequently hanging laxly down over substrate/ neighbouring moss etc. (Fig. a)	Linear, olive-green, arching away from substrate (Fig. b)
Sorus (lipped pocket on leaf margin)	Orbicular, held in plane of leaf; margins of lips ('indusium') irregularly toothed 	Ovoid, held out from plane of leaf; margins of lips ('indusium') entire 

Plant Crib

Apex of leaf segment	Truncate to square	Distinctly rounded
Chloroplast size and arrangement ($\times 100$ or, better, $\times 400$)	Cells of lamina between veins typically \pm square (c. $40\text{-}55\ \mu\text{m}$), with c. 30-40 chloroplasts per cell 	Cells of lamina between typically \pm rectangular (c. $94 \times 40\ \mu\text{m}$), with c. 60-80 chloroplasts per cell 

- References** Evans, G. B. (1964). *The autecology of Hymenophyllum tunbrigense and H. wilsonii in Britain*. PhD thesis, UCNW, Bangor (unpublished).
Evans, G. B. (1966). *British Fern Gazette*, **9**: 256-262.
Richards, P. W. & Evans, G. B. (1972). *Journal of Ecology* **60**: 245-268.

Authors A. C. Jermy & J. M. Camus (*Fern Guide* 1991).