

Zygodon rufescens

COMMON NAME

Moss

FAMILY

Orthotrichaceae

AUTHORITY

Zygodon rufescens (Hampe) Broth.

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Sparse | Qualifiers: SO

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. ?Worldwide. In New Zealand known from the North Island from scattered sites across the eastern Central Volcanic Plateau, Kaingaroa Plain and near Taupo, and in the southern South Island

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Corticolous, densely tufted moss. Plants olive-green above, dull red below. Stems simple or dichotomously branched, up to 20 mm tall, more or less radiculose below with red tomentum. Brood bodies clavate, with traverse and longitudinal walls. Leaves c.2 mm long, often crisped when dry, squarrosely spreading when moist, lanceolate, very long and sharply acute; shortly decurrent, entire of finely crenulate through projecting papillae, with plane margins. Nerve failing below apex, usually finely rugose on the underside. Upper cells 8-10 microns, rounded and angled, incrassate, papillose; those at the base rectangular, hyaline, smooth, thin-walled. Sex organs and sporophyte unknown.

FRUITING

Fruits not known

THREATS

An apparently naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species in New Zealand.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous on the bark of *Leptospermum scoparium* J.R.Forst. et. G.Forst. and other small trees in frost flats.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zygodon-rufescens/>

