

Acrolejeunea pycnoclada var. pycnoclada

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: DP, OL, SO

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Corticolous. Plant olive green in colour. Stems to 8 mm or more long, most shorter, appressed to bark. 0.3 mm (dry) to 0.9m m (wet) wide. Branches mostly of Lejeunea type but occasionally Frullania type. Stem diameter 90-110 μm , ventral merophyte of 4-5 cells in width, Cortical cells subrectangular to irregular in shape 20-30 x 12-22 μm , cortical cells c.17 surrounded by c.20 medullary cells. Leaves are imbricated when dry spreading but not becoming squarrose when wet. Lobe c.540 x 330 μm , broad, short crescent shaped with a rounded apex which is incurved. The dorsal base is not auriculate. The ventral margin is short and more or less recurved. The keel is curved, not decurrent and the cells not or weakly protuberant. Median leaf cells are ovoid 22 x 15-16 μm , base cells larger 29-31 x 16-17 μm , trigones are medium sized Y shaped (the sides swollen), intermediate thickenings scattered to scarce. Oilbodies were not present. Lobule is narrowly ovate rectangular with slightly oblique apex, the free margin is almost straight. Teeth (2-)3 each 1-2 cells long, erect, the first is at tip of the free margin, the hyaline papilla is at the base of the second tooth which is therefore the 'apical tooth', the lobule is about half the length of the lobe. Underleaf, in position slightly overlapping the base of the adjacent underleaf, broad oval in shape, about 320 μm wide and 190 μm long. The median cells ovoid 150-18 x 13-15 μm , slightly larger at base 22-25 x (9-)10-13. The rhizoid disc is small. Reproductive structures not present in the sole Kermadec gathering.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands: Raoul Island

HABITAT

The sole known gathering from Raoul Island came from the bark of a large *Metrosideros kermadecensis* overhanging the ephemeral watercourse that drains Sunshine Valley. Sunshine Valley is a major ravine/gorge system draining the south-eastern side of Raoul Island.

THREATS

First recognized from New Zealand in May 2011 from a single copious gathering made from Raoul Island, Sunshine Valley. The identity of the gathering was not known until the specimen was examined more closely in New Zealand, however despite the many liverworts collected from Raoul in May 2009 and May 2011 there were no further gatherings of this species evident, so it is likely that *Acrolejeunea pycnoclada* is very uncommon on Raoul Island. However, until a thorough survey for this inconspicuous plant is undertaken it is considered inappropriate to provide a more definitive threat listing.

GENUS

Acrolejeunea

FAMILY

Lejeuneaceae

AUTHORITY

Acrolejeunea pycnoclada subsp. *pycnoclada* (Taylor) Schiffner



ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Not seen

FRUITING

Not seen

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 July 2011. Description based on Raoul island specimen and drawn up by J.E. Braggins and P.J. de Lange

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Acrolejeunea pycnoclada* var. *pycnoclada* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acrolejeunea-pycnoclada-var-pycnoclada/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acrolejeunea-pycnoclada-var-pycnoclada/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026