

Aloina ambigua

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terricolous. Leaves slightly curled when dry, long and spreading when moist, c.1.0-3.0 × 0.3-0.7 mm, lingulate, base shortly sheathing, apex cucullate, incurved, ± obtuse (± subacute when flattened out), margin entire. Upper cells quadrate to rectangular, transversely elongate, trigones prominent, basal cells rectangular, slightly smaller than upper cells, trigones similar, walls firm. Costa ceasing at or below apex, filaments short, 3-6 cells high, branched, terminal cell nearly spherical to elongately ovoid. Dioecious. Seta 6-12 mm long, red, paler above. Capsule erect, elongately cylindrical, dark brown; operculum elongate; annulus narrow, persistent; calyptra hardly covering more than the operculum; peristome teeth weakly twisted when dry, borne separately on a distinct basal membrane projecting above the theca mouth. Spores 14-16 µm.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (Te Paki, Hawke's Bay and Carterton) (see Glenney et al. 2011; also P.J. de Lange unpubl. data). Also Europe, North Africa, North America and Australia (South Australia and Victoria).

HABITAT

Lowland. Collected from clay at the bottom of roadside drains and from a cemetery.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous. On clay. Gatherings have been made from roadside ditches draining siltstone cliff faces and banks, and also from compacted clay within a cemetery.

THREATS

Known from only three sites from where it is evidently spreading. Indications are that it is a recent arrival to New Zealand, although whether it is naturalised or indigenous is still not clear. The few known sites are all in sites vulnerable to changes in roading and landuse. *Aloina ambigua* is abundant in Australia.

GENUS

Aloina

FAMILY

Pottiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aloina ambigua (B.S.G.) Limpr

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



FRUITING

September

ETYMOLOGY

ambigua: From the Latin ambiguus 'ambiguous, uncertain'

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2010 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Catcheside, D.G. 1980: Mosses of South Australia. Government Printer, South Australia

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). New Zealand Journal of Botany 49: 305-327.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 13 October 2011. Description adapted from Catcheside (1980).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aloina-ambigua/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026