

Aloina bifrons

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Minute, loosely tufted moss forming diffuse patches on limestone rock. Stems thick, up to 2 mm tall, stout, comose. Leaves c.2 mm long, imbricated and incurved when dry, spreading when moist, thick, fleshy more or less succulent; lamina broadly elliptic, base sheathing, distinctly concave, margins widely involute from close to base, hooded and subacute at apex. Nerve very broad, flat and indistinct, excurrent, finely cuspidate in the lower leaves, and as a long, smooth, hyaline arista in the upper ones. Ventral surface of the nerve and lamina, excluding the involute margins and the short base, entirely covered by a dense mat of filaments which conceal the areolation in that part of the ventral surface of the lamina. Upper cells c.15 microns, subsodiametrical, irregularly angled, smooth, strongly incrassate, narrowly transversely elliptic towards the margin. Cells below larger, subquadrate, pellucid, with thinner walls which are sometimes collenchymatously thickened at the angles. Marginal cells below somewhat transversely lengthened. Seta to 14 mm long, flexuose. Capsule 3.0-3.5 mm long, brown, erect, cylindrical, with the base slightly broadened. Peristome teeth 32, arising from a low basal cylinder. spirally twisted to the left. Operculum narrowly conical, suberect, about 1/3 the length of the capsule.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Hawke's Bay. Also Europe (Mediterranean). North America, South Africa and Australia (Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales)

HABITAT

Lowland areas. Terricolous on open clay pans and sparsely vegetated surfaces

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Saxicolous and calcicolous - on limestone rock

THREATS

Known in New Zealand from only a few small populations which do not appear to be under any threat. The current distribution and ecology of this species suggests that it is a reasonably recent arrival to New Zealand which is why it has been listed as a "vagrant" (see Glenny et al. 2011).

GENUS

Aloina

FAMILY

Pottiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aloina bifrons (De Not.) Delgad.

SYNONYMS

Aloina sullivaniana (Müll.Hal.) Broth.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Although fruit has been seen insufficient information exists to provide any details on the timing of fruiting

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: DP, SO, Sp

2010 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: DP, SO, Sp

2005 | Range Restricted | Qualifiers: SO, OL

[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.

Sainsbury, G.O.K. 1955: A handbook of the New Zealand Mosses. Wellington. Royal Society of New Zealand.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2007. Description adapted from Catcheside (1980) and Sainsbury (1955).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026