

Archidium elatum

COMMON NAME

Moss

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Archidiaceae

AUTHORITY

Archidium elatum Dixon et Sainsbury

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, Sp, ?TO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to New Zealand, known from three sites in the North Island (Ahipara, Bay of Islands and Lake Rotomahana) and from one site on the main Chatham (Rekohu) Island (Otauwae Point).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark brown-green or yellow-brown tufted moss. Individual plants 7-15 mm tall, stems simple or weakly branched, stem leaves 0.7-1 x 0.25-0.30 mm erecto-patent, spreading, occasionally reduced to bracts below. Plants sterile, archegonia present, antheridia unknown; perichaetium terminal, perichaetial leaves erect to erecto-patent, channelled, 1.3-1.5 x 0.30-0.35 mm, narrowly deltoid, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, base ovate, apex acute to broadly acuminate, margins plane or recurved, entire, occasionally serrulate; costa broad, flattened, 88 micrometre (69-115 micrometre) wide in median section, filling 1/3 or more of leaf base, subpercurrent to percurrent; median cells firm-walled, varying in shape from quadrate, trapezoidal to tabular or narrowly rhomboidal; mostly tabular to rhomboidal 20-50 x 9-12 micrometre, upper cells mostly rhomboidal, reaching 50-70 micrometre along margins, alar and basal cells uniformly quadrate to short-tabular, smaller than median cells, 14-28 x 9-14 micrometre.

FRUITING

Capsules unknown in this species



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THREATS

Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum* Chiov.) has been identified as a threat and possible cause of extinction at one site. The possibility that *A. elatum* has been overlooked over large parts of its range must be considered highly likely.

SUBSTRATE

Basalt rock (at three sites), rhyolitic rock and associated tephra at the fourth site

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange August 2007. Description based on Sainsbury (1955).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Sainsbury, G.O.K. 1955: A Handbook of the New Zealand mosses. Royal Society of New Zealand Bulletin 5: 1-490.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Archidium elatum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/archidium-elatum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/archidium-elatum/>