

Arctoa spenceri

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, De

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Polyoicous, corticolous, tufted, yellow moss colonising the bark of small trees and shrubs. Stems up to 10 mm tall, simple or branched. Leaves and areolation similar but alar cells usually less numerous and coloured. Perichaetial bracts obtuse and bluntly cuspidate. Seta to 10 mm long, slender, yellow. Capsule to 1.3 mm long, narrowly oval or oblong, pale, scaly with a red rim and with stomata near the base. peristome inserted on the rim, the teeth bifid for the greater part of their length, densely and obliquely striolate, finely papillose above. Operculum with an inclined subulate beak nearly equaling the capsule. Calyptra hooded. Male inflorescences on female plants or on separate plants.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands.

HABITAT

Corticolous on the bark of small trees and shrubs in montane forest and subalpine areas

THREATS

In 2011 *Dicranoweisia spenceri* was rediscovered at its type locality near Arthur's Pass in the South Island. Indications are that although rather localised it is not under any threat at that site. Nothing is known about its status in the North Island. Because this information came after the last Bryophyte Threat Listing was accepted for publication (Glenny et al. 2011) this moss remains for now "Data Deficient". That listing is probably still appropriate as nothing is known about this moss at any of the others sites in which it has been historically gathered.

GENUS

Arctoa

FAMILY

Rhabdoweisiaceae

AUTHORITY

Arctoa spenceri (Dixon & Sainsbury) Fedosov, Brinda & M.Stech

SYNONYMS

Dicranoweisia spenceri Dixon et Sainsbury

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



FRUITING

Spring to Summer (exact fruiting period unknown)

NVS CODE

DICSPE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: De, DP

2010 | Data Deficient

2005 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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. *Royal Society of New Zealand Bulletin* 5.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 2 August 2007. Description adapted from Sainsbury (1955).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arctoa-spenceri/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026